

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1181
ANSWERED ON 19.09.2020**

RELAXATION TO FOREIGN TOURISTS

1181. SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have relaxed restriction on foreign tourists under the protected area permit regime;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for the development of wellness tourism in India; and**
- (d) the trend of tourist flow to India during the year 2019-2020?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) & (b): As per information received from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, no such relaxation has been granted to foreign tourists recently. However, Central Government has delegated the following powers for issue of Protected Area Permit (PAP)/Restricted Area Permit (RAP):-

- (i) If a foreign national intends to visit a place in the Protected/ Restricted Area which is not open for tourism on a Tourist visa, Home Department of the State Government UT Administration concerned or FRROs may grant PAP or RAP, as the case may be. However, if such a foreign national is holding a visa other than Tourist Visa and intends to Visit the Protected/Restricted Area for tourism purpose only, he/ she may be granted PAP or RAP, as the case may be, by the competent authority.**
- (ii) Individual foreign tourist [except those who are citizens of Prior Reference Category (PRC) countries or having their origin in such PRC countries] may be granted PAP or RAP, as the case may be, to visit places which are opened for tourism by the Home Department of the State Government/UT Administration concerned, District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner concerned or by FRROs.**

(c): A National Medical & Wellness Tourism Board has been constituted to provide a dedicated institutional framework to take forward the cause of promotion of Medical Tourism, Wellness Tourism including Yoga, Ayurveda and other Indian systems of medicine. The Board works as the umbrella organization that promotes this segment of tourism in an organized manner.

The Ministry of Tourism has issued guidelines for the promotion of Wellness as a Niche Tourism Product. These guidelines address various issues including inter alia, making available quality publicity material, training and capacity building for the service providers and participation in international & domestic wellness related events.

Wellness Tourism has been promoted through media campaigns undertaken in the print, television and online media, on the social media accounts and website of the Ministry and at various travel marts and exhibitions within the country and overseas.

The Ministry of Tourism also provides financial assistance under the Market Development Assistance Scheme (MDA) to approved wellness centres, i.e., representatives of wellness centres accredited by NABH or the State Government for participation in medical/tourism fairs, medical conferences, wellness conferences, wellness fairs, and allied road shows.

(d): As per the information received from Bureau of Immigration (BOI), data on Foreign Tourist arrivals (FTA) during 2019 and 2020 are given below:

Month	2019	2020 (Jan-August)
January	1111040	1118150
February	1090516	1015632
March	978236	328462
April	774651	0
May	615136	0
June	726446	0
July	818125	0
August	800837	0
September	751513	
October	945017	
November	1092440	
December	1226398	
