GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.844 TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2018

VISA FREE ACCESS

844. DR. GOKARAJU GANGA RAJU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to the 2018 Henley Passport Index, India is at its lowest ranking with regard to the visa-free access to more countries and China has surpassed India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to improve its passport rankings in providing visa-free access to more countries on the globe?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) As per information available on the website www.henleyglobal.com, the Henley Passport Index ranks all the passports of the world according to the number of countries their holders can travel to visa free. The ranking is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association and lists the countries that can be accessed visa-free, with an electronic visa (e-Visa), with a visa on arrival, or with a normal visa.

According to the Henley Passport Index available on this website (Annexure-I), India is ranked at 86 with 49 countries providing visa free access. China is ranked 75 with 60 countries providing visa-free access.

(c) The Government has recently liberalised the visa policy with the objective of promoting investments and tourism into India from other countries. The e-Visa scheme has been liberalised to allow business visits and medical treatment in India. The number of entries and validity of e-Visas has been increased and the scheme has been expanded to include 163 countries and territories till date. These initiatives are expected to encourage other countries to reciprocate and facilitate travel of Indian passport holders to their countries.

ANNEXURE-I

HSP Henley & Partners Passport Index

Global

Rank	Passport	Score															
1	Germany	177	13	Estonia	165	36	Grenada	127	58	Kuwait	8.3		Morocco		-	Equatorial Guinea	
2	Singapore	176	1.4	Poland	163		Macao (SAR China)			Maldives			Zimbabwe		T I	Luos	
	Switzerland		1.5	Monaco	162	37	Guatemala	123	59	Nauru	82	75	China	60		Liberia	
3	Denmark	175	16	Chile	161		Honduras	61	60	Jamaica	79	76	Armenia	59		Vietnam	
	Finland		17	Cyprus	159	38	Dominica	122		Papua New Guinea			Kyrgyzstan		89	Cameroon	46
	France		18	Argentina Argentina	158	39	El Salvador	121	61	Botswana	78	77	Burkina Faso	58		Congo (Rep.)	
	Italy			Brazil		40	Peru	120	62	Bolivia	77		Sao Tome and Principe			Nigeria	
	Japan		19	Andorra	157	41	Serbia	119		Qatar		78	Mauritania	57	90	Burundi	45
	Norway			San Marino		42	Solomon Islands	117	63	Bahrain	75		Mozambique		T.	Djibouti	
	Sweden		20	Bulgaria	156	43	Samoa	116		Namibia		79	Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	56	T.	Jordan	
	United Kingdom			Croatia			Vanuaru			Suriname					91	Congo (Dem. Rep.)	43
4 -	Austria	174		Romania		44	Nicaragua	114	64	Thailand	73		Senegal		92	Myanmar	42
	Belgium		21	Hong Kong (SAR China)	155		Ukraine		65	Belarus	71		Togo		93	Sri Lanka	41
	Luxembourg		22	Brunei	153	45	Russian Federation	113		Kazakhstan			Mongolia	55	94	Sudan	40
	Netherlands		23	Israel	150		Tonga			Oman		81	Guinea	54	95	Ethiopia	39
	Spain		24	Barbados	146	46	Colombia	112	66	Swaziland	70		Mali			North Korea	
	United States		25	Mexico	144		Macedonia (FRYOM)		67	Kenya	69		Niger			South Sudan	
5	Ireland	173	26	Bahamas	142		Marshall Islands			Lesotho			Tajikistan		96	Bangladesh	38
	Portugal		27	Seychelles	141		Tuvalu			Malawi			Uzbekistan	222.7		Iran	
	South Korea		28	Uruguay	139	47	Kiribati	111		Saudi Arabia		82	Haiti	53	F	Kosovo	
6	Canada	172		St. Kitts and Nevis		48	Moldova Moldova	110	68	Gambia	68	8.3	Bhutan	52		Lebanon	
7	Australia	171	29	Vatican City	137		Montenegro			Tanzania			Chad		97	Eritrea	37
	Greece		30	Costa Rica	136	49	Palau Islands	108	69	Tunisia	66		Comores Islands			Palestinian Territory	
	New Zealand		3.1	Antigua and Barbuda	135	50	Micronesia	107	70	7 ambia	65				98	Libya	36
8	Czech Republic	170	32	Mauritius	134	51	Turkey		71	Uganda	64		Madagascar			Nepal	
	Iceland			Taiwan			Bosnia and Herzegovin	a 105	72	Azerbaijan	63		Rwanda		99	Yemen	35
9	Malta	169		United Arab Emirates		52	Albania	100		Cape Verde Islands		-	Guinea-Bissau	51	100	Somalia	32
10	Hungary	168	33	Trinidad and Tobago	133		South Africa			Cuba		85		50	101	Pakistan	30
11	Liechtenstein	167	34	Paraguay	130	53	Georgia	99		Indonesia		86	Cambodia	49	102	Syria	28
	Slovakia			St. Lucia		54	Belize	96		Philippines			Central African Republic		103	Iraq	27
	Slovenia			Venezuela Venezuela		55	Ecuador	88	73	Dominican Republic	62		India		104	Afghanistan	2.4
12	Latvia	166	35	Panama	129	56	Timor-Leste	8.5		Ghana		87		48			
	Lithuania			St. Vincent and the		57	Fiji	84		Sierra Leone		-	Egypt				
	Malaysia			Grenadines			Guyana		74	Benin	61	88	Algeria	47			

This graph shows the full Global Ranking of the 2018 Henley Passport Index. In certain cases, a rank is shared by multiple countries because these countries all have the same level of visa-free access.

The information provided here is based on the 2018 Henley Passport Index ranking, as of 16 January 2018
