

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:890
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
KAILASH MANSAROVAR YATRA THROUGH LADAKH
DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU;MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any discussion was held with China for allowing pilgrims to Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through Ladakh route;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) if not, whether the Government propose to hold dialogue with China in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)-(d): Yes, Sir. Government has on several occasions proposed to the Chinese side an alternate route for the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra through Demchok in Jammu & Kashmir. In response, the Chinese side has conveyed that it would not be feasible to open an alternate route through Demchok on account of poor road conditions, frequent landslides, high altitudes and lack of infrastructure in that uninhabited remote region of Tibet. The Chinese side also conveyed that they had examined other alternatives, but none of them had been found feasible due to rapidly changing natural and weather conditions.

During the visit of Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji to India in January 2002, the Indian side again requested the Chinese side to upgrade facilities for the Yatra on their side and for the opening of a second route. The Chinese side said that utmost efforts are being made and that China will continue to make such efforts in the future.