

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1408  
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003  
VISIT BY PAKISTANI BUSINESS DELEGATION  
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a Pakistani Business Delegation visited India recently;
- (b) if so, whether the said delegation has urged the Government to ease visa norms for businessmen;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government are contemplating to ease visa norms to normalise trade relations between the two countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

- ( a ) Yes. A delegation from Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited India (July 7 – 8) at the invitation of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- ( b ) & ( c ) The Joint Recommendations, arrived after their meeting, identified easing of the visa facility to businessmen of India and Pakistan as one of the factors for promotion of trade and commerce between the two countries.
- ( d ) & ( e ) There is no restriction on grant of visas to Pakistani nationals, including businessmen, who are found eligible, and which is normally granted after pre-verification.