

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:341
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003
VISA TO PAKISTANIS
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI SI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has decided to grant more visas to Pakistani nationals to encourage people to people contact between the two countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of visas being issued daily at present;
- (d) whether there is an increase in the demand of visas after the process of normalization of relations between the two countries that have started recently; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to facilitate the issue of more visas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

- (a & b) There is no restriction on grant of visas to Pakistani nationals, who are found eligible, and which is normally granted after pre-verification.
- (c & d) There has been an increase in the demand for visas after the resumption of Delhi-Lahore-Delhi bus service from 11th July, 2003. On an average about twenty five visas are being granted daily by the High Commission of India at present.
- (e) The question of granting more visas can be considered, as required, in the context of resumption of civil aviation, on a reciprocal basis.