

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:341  
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003  
INCREASE IN STAFF STRENGTH  
PRABHA RAU

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

- (a) whether India had proposed to Pakistan for an increase in the staff strength of their respective High Commissions by eight on reciprocal basis;
- (b) if so, whether Pakistan has accepted India's proposal; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) In continuation of Prime Minister's initiative of April 18 and the step by step approach adopted to normalise diplomatic and other links with Pakistan, India, on 23 September 2003, proposed to Pakistan an increase in the staff strengths of the respective High Commissions by 8 on a reciprocal basis. Pakistan has agreed to the Indian proposal.