

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3224

ANSWERED ON:04.02.2004

OFFER OF NEW BUS SERVICES BY PAK TO INDIA

NIVEDITA MANE;SADASHVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK;SUKENDER REDDY GUTHA

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

- (a) whether Pakistan has offered new bus services to India ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether the Union Government has examined these offers; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) In continuation of Prime Minister`s initiative of April 18, 2003 India, on October 22, 2003 proposed a series of measures aimed at promoting people to people contact between India and Pakistan. These, inter alia, included the proposals for starting a bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, and a bus or rail link between Munabao (Rajasthan) and Khokrapar (Sindh). While agreeing to hold discussions on these proposals, Pakistan suggested a bus service between Amritsar and Lahore.

In response to India`s proposal for holding technical levels talks for establishment of bus link between Munabao and Khokharapar, and between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad in the week of January 12 and January 19, 2004 respectively, Pakistan has now suggested the dates of March 8-9, 2004 and March 29-30, 2004 for these talks.