

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:55

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2004

LIBERALISING VISA NORMS FOR PAK NATIONALS

Jagannath Dr. M.;Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan;Seth Shri Lakshman Chandra

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

- (a) whether India has liberalised its visa regime for Pakistani nationals especially accredited journalists, academics, elderly visitors and medicos accompanying patients for treatment at reputed hospitals;
- (b) if so, the number of Pak nationals who visited India under these categories so far;
- (c) whether the Pak Government has also extended similar visa relaxation for Indian citizens; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

- (a) In order to facilitate people-to-people contact, and mindful of humanitarian considerations, the Government had on September 18, 2004 announced unilateral relaxation of the grant of visas to the Pakistani nationals, including accredited journalists with minimum 3 years accreditation with national or international media of repute; academicians and professors, Vice Chancellors and those coming on the invitation of reputed/eminant universities and institutions; medical doctors, if accompanying patients for treatment at leading/reputed hospitals in India; all Pakistan nationals above the age of 65; and permission to Pakistani nationals to visit upto twelve places during each visit.
- (b) The relaxations are being implemented appropriately. The High Commission of India in Islamabad has been issuing about 6,000 - 7,000 visas per month, including to academicians, journalists, doctors, and other Pakistani nationals to visit India.
- (c) & (d) The Government of Pakistan has so far not reciprocated the visa liberalization measures announced by India on September 18, 2004.