

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:349

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005

INCREASING VISAS FOR TRAVEL TO CANADA

Mahajan Smt. Sumitra;Singh Shri Sugrib;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

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

- (a) whether the Canadian Prime Minister visited India recently;
- (b) if so, the details of discussion held and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has raised the issue regarding increasing the number of visas for hassle free commuting between India and Canada with the Canadian Prime Minister; and
- (d) if so, the response of the Canadian Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

- (a) The Canadian Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Paul Martin, visited New Delhi on 17-18 January 2005.
- (b) Prime Minister of Canada held discussions with Prime Minister of India that focused around the expansion of bilateral cooperation between India and Canada. Notable elements of the discussions included a science and technology initiative, strengthening environmental cooperation, agreeing on a partnership for prosperity that would lead to enhanced trade and investment and strengthening people-to-people links.
- (c)&(d) Both sides agreed on the need for improved visa and consular services as part of the efforts to strengthen people-to-people links.