

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5471  
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010  
CANCELLING VISIT TO IRAN  
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Lingam Shri P.

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that he had to cancel the proposed visit to Iran in the last week of March this year; and
- (b) if so, details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) & (b): EAM had received an invitation from the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran to attend a celebration to be organized in Tehran and Shiraz on the occasion of the celebration of the Nowruz Festival. Dignitaries from other countries were also invited for the celebration. The Iranian side subsequently changed the dates for the celebration twice. After the first change of dates, EAM had conveyed to the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran that he would be delighted to join in the Nowruz celebration. Unfortunately his prior commitments precluded his attending the event when the dates were changed a second time.