

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:366

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009

DISPLACEMENT OF SIKH HINDU FAMILIES IN PAKISTAN

Bais Shri Ramesh;Singh Shri Radha Mohan

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

- (a) whether the Government has received reports of Sikhs and Hindus living in Pakistan being compelled to pay "Jaziya" and being forced to leave their places/homes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has raised this issue with the Government of Pakistan;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government of Pakistan thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken/ being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) to (e) There have been reports about Sikh families in Pakistan being driven out of their homes and being subject to Jaziya and other such impositions. On seeing such reports, the Government of India had taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan on 1st May 2009. The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson commented in response on 2nd May 2009 that Sikhs living in Pakistan were Pakistani citizens and hence of no concern to India. He also said that the Government of Pakistan was fully cognizant of the situation and looked after the welfare of all its citizens, particularly, the minority community.