

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1844
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012
KAILASH-MANSAROVER YATRA
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1210 on 17.8.2012 and state:

(a) whether it has been submitted in reply to part

(b) and

(c) of the said question that the China has cited difficulties in opening any alternate route to Kailash-Mansarovar;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government to address the concerns expressed by China; and

(c) the time by which difficulties coming in the way of an alternate route to Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra through Shipkila of Kinnour district in Himachal Pradesh are likely to be removed?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, the Chinese side has cited difficulties in opening alternate routes to Kailash-Manasarovar, including through Shipki La.

(b) The Government of India has been discussing with the Government of China the issue of opening additional routes to Kailash-Manasarovar since 1992. During the visit of the Chinese President Hu Jintao to India in November 2006, the two sides agreed to explore the possibility of opening an additional route for the Yatra. However, the Chinese side has been citing difficulty in opening alternate routes on the ground that it would involve travel over longer distances on their side through difficult terrain, with poor road conditions and lack of proper infrastructure for accommodation and communication. They have stressed that the safety of the pilgrims is their paramount concern and this cannot be ensured on the alternate routes.

(c) The Government of China has not indicated any timeframe to open alternate routes for the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra.