

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:412  
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2015  
POLICY FOR FOREIGN ARTISTS  
Rao Shri Rayapati Sambasiva

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

- (a) whether any policy/scheme exists to promote and encourage artists from foreign countries performing in India, particularly from Pakistan and if so, the salient features of the such policy/scheme;
- (b) whether visa was denied to Pakistani artists recently and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time when artists from Pakistan last performed in India?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 412 REGARDING "POLICY FOR FOREIGN ARTISTS" FOR ANSWER ON 22.04.2015

(a) to (c) The activities of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), which is mandated to promote international understanding through culture also includes organizing of visits by foreign artists to India. Consistent with the vision to build peaceful and friendly bilateral ties with Pakistan, as enshrined in the Simla Agreement (1972), Government has also been encouraging cultural exchanges between India and Pakistan. Several visits to India by Pakistani artists take place every year which are being organized by private individuals and organizations.

Travel of Pakistani artists to India is always governed by the rules under the existing India-Pakistan visa regime.