

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1980  
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2016  
Religious Tourism  
Selvam Shri V. Panneer

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

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to encourage religious tourism with Pakistan in view of improvement in relations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and
- (c) whether the Government is working out the modalities for the purpose and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) Visits by nationals of India and Pakistan to selected religious shrines in each other's country are arranged under the 'Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines-1974'.

During Prime Minister's meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister at Ufa (Russia), on 10 July 2015, both the sides agreed to take steps towards facilitating religious tourism. Further, during External Affairs Minister's visit to Islamabad on 9 December 2015, both sides agreed to a Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue, which includes religious tourism. Foreign Secretaries of the two countries are in touch to schedule their meeting to decide modalities of the Dialogue.