

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 19.11.2009
ANSWERED ON
CULTURAL RELATION WITH NEPAL .

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SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS

Will the Minister of COALCOALEXTERNAL AFFAIRSEXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether efforts are being made to establish cultural relations with Nepal as before;
- (b) the total number of travellers from India who visited Shri Pashupatinath temple during the last five years;
- (c) whether some organizations are trying to end the cultural relations with India;
- (d) if so, whether such people are associated with some organizations and people in India; and
- (e) the stand of Government thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

- (a) India and Nepal maintain age-old cultural and civilizational relations and people-to-people ties. To further strengthen the ties and promote knowledge and information about various aspects of Indian culture, an Indian Cultural Centre was established in Kathmandu on August 16, 2007. There are regular exchanges of cultural troupes between the two countries, including within the SAARC framework.
- (b) The number of pilgrims to Pashupatinath Temple cannot be enumerated as the open India-Nepal border allows free movement of people across the border.
- (c) to (e) As an open and free society, Nepal has people of various persuasions, some of whom may not prefer close relations between the two countries. However, no information on organizations and people trying to end cultural relations with India has come to notice.