

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1608
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.12.2018

MOU ON KARTARPUR CORRIDOR

1608. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with Government of Pakistan for construction of Kartarpur corridor on Indo-Pak border of Punjab; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The Union Cabinet, on 22 November 2018, passed a Resolution to celebrate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Devji in 2019 and *inter-alia* approved building and development of Kartarpur Corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur District to the International Border on the Indian side to facilitate visit of pilgrims from India to Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan. On the same day, the Government of India informed the Government of Pakistan of its decision to build Kartarpur Corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur District of India to the International Border and urged Pakistan to recognise the sentiments of the Sikh community and to develop a corridor with suitable facilities in their territory from the International Border to Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib. The Government of Pakistan in response has agreed to build a corridor in its territory from Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib to the International Border.

The Kartarpur corridor on the Indian side is envisaged to be an integrated development project with Government of India funding, for smooth and easy passage of Indian pilgrims, with modern amenities. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is the nodal Ministry for building and development of the corridor on the Indian side.

The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry for coordinating with the concerned authorities, including the local Government.

A High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Union Home Minister has been constituted to review, monitor and oversee the activities as approved by the Union Cabinet for implementation of the decisions of the Cabinet.

Hon'ble Vice President of India laid the foundation stone for the construction of the corridor on the Indian side on 26 November 2018. Union Minister of Food Processing Industries and Minister of State (IC) for Housing and Urban Affairs attended the ground breaking ceremony for development of Kartarpur Corridor on the Pakistan side on 28 November 2018 as representatives of the Government of India.

The Government has urged Pakistan to expedite the construction of the corridor on their side to ensure that Indian citizens can pay their respects at the Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib using the corridor as soon as possible.
