

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1022
ANSWERED ON- 15/12/2022

RE-OPENING OF KARTARPUR CORRIDOR

1022. DR. ANIL AGRAWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any discussions have taken place or agreement has been signed with the Pakistan Government to re-open Kartarpur Corridor to have the holy darshan of Shri Nankana Sahib by the sangats/devotees; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a) & (b) An Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the facilitation of pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, Pakistan, was signed on 24 October 2019 in order to fulfil the long-standing demand of Indian citizens and Overseas Citizen of India, to have easy and smooth access to the holy Gurdwara and to operationalise the corridor in time for the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

The Agreement, inter alia, provides for visa-free travel of Indian pilgrims as well as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders, from India to the holy Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan, on a daily basis.

As a precautionary measure to contain and control the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, the Kartarpur Corridor was temporarily suspended from 16 March 2020. With the improvement in the COVID-19 situation, the corridor was reopened to pilgrims on 17 November 2021. Since its inauguration on 9 November 2019, the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor has been used by around 1,30,000 pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur.

With regard to the visit of Indian pilgrims to Gurdwara Nankana Sahib, there exists a Bilateral Protocol signed between India and Pakistan in 1974, under which visits to various religious shrines in Pakistan, including Gurdwara Nankana Sahib, are regularly facilitated. This year, Government of India facilitated the visit of around 4,790 Indian pilgrims to Gurdwara Nankana Sahib in Pakistan.
