GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**RAJYA SABHA**
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.237**
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 08/12/2022

**WAIVER OF FEES FOR PILGRIMS OF KARTARPUR SAHIB**

237 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of visas issued to pilgrims visiting Kartarpur Sahib since 2019;

(b) whether Government is considering to waive the US dollar 20 charge placed by Pakistan on the Indian devotees visiting the Gurudwara Darbar Sahib via Kartarpur corridor;

(c) whether Government has conducted any consultations in order to waive fees and provide additional services to the pilgrims; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a) to (d)   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, throughout the year. 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.

The Government of India has consistently urged the Government of Pakistan that in deference to the wishes of the pilgrims, it should not levy any fee or charge on the pilgrims who visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur through the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor. Pakistan, however, continues to levy USD 20 on every pilgrim for each visit.

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