

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1665
ANSWERED ON- 03/08/2023

INTRICATE ONLINE REGISTRATION PROCESS TO VISIT KARTARPUR SAHIB

1665. SHRI VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that devotees face problem due to intricate online registration process to visit Kartarpur Sahib;
- (b) if so, details of the steps taken by Government to simplify the registration process;
- (c) whether it is a fact that 20 dollar fee is charged on every Indian citizen, who uses the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor to travel without a Visa to the Sikh shrine located across the border;
- (d) if so, whether Government propose to address this issue with Pakistan;
- (e) if so, the details thereof with timeline; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a to f) 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 Gurudwara Shri Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, Pakistan, was signed on 24 October 2019 in order to fulfil the long-standing demand of the pilgrims to have easy and smooth access to the holy Gurudwara and to operationalise the Corridor 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 Gurudwara Shri Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan on a daily basis, throughout the year. To facilitate the visit of pilgrims, a state-of-the-art infrastructure, including a highway from the town of Dera Baba Nanak to Zero Point and an Integrated Check Post (ICP) has been built on the Indian side.

The registration for pilgrimage to Gurudwara Shri Darbar Sahib Kartarpur through the Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor is facilitated through a web portal (<https://prakashpurb550.mha.gov.in>). Once the applicant fills the registration form and uploads relevant documents, Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) is sent to the applicant via SMS/e-mail.

Since its inauguration on 9 November 2019, the Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor has been used by around 2,00,000 pilgrims to visit Gurudwara Shri Darbar Sahib Kartarpur. The Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor remains functional on all seven days of the week.

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 Gurudwara Shri Darbar Sahib Kartarpur through the Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor. Pakistan, however, continues to levy US \$20 on every pilgrim for each visit.
