

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1995
ANSWERED ON- 12/12/2024

INDIAN PILGRIMS AND RELIGIOUS TOURISM IN IRAQ AND IRAN

1995. SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN

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

- (a) the number of Indian Muslim pilgrims who visited religious shrines in Iraq and Iran over the last five years, and the facilities provided by Government to ensure their safe travel;
- (b) whether there are any bilateral agreements with Iraq and Iran to improve pilgrimage experiences for Indian Muslims, including visa facilitation and travel subsidies; and
- (c) the steps taken to promote India's Islamic cultural heritage while strengthening ties with these nations?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) The Government does not maintain figures of Indian pilgrims visiting Iraq and Iran.
- (b) There are no bilateral agreements with Iran and Iraq to improve pilgrimage experiences for Indian Muslims.
- (c) India shares historically close and friendly relations with Iraq and Iran underpinned by civilizational linkages and strong people-to-people ties. In the recent years, our bilateral relations have strengthened with both the countries in various fields including tourism and culture.
