

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1047
ANSWERED ON - 08/12/2023

KARTARPUR CORRIDOR

1047. SHRI MANISH TEWARI

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

- (a) the total fee levied by Pakistan for providing access to pilgrims to the Kartarpur corridor;
- (b) whether the Government engaged in any discussions to reduce the high fees charged by Pakistan to provide access to pilgrims to the Kartarpur corridor, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to consider imposing retaliatory fees on Pakistani tourists visiting India as a viable option, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a to c) 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.

Since its inauguration on 9 November 2019, the Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor has been used by around 2,30,000 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.

The Government of India charges a prescribed fee from all visa applicants from Pakistan.
