

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2252
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2022**

PASSPORT FREE TRAVEL

2252. SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received reports that a large number of Sikh population all over the world is demanding passport free travel to Sri Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara through Kartarpur Sahib Corridor;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is aware that visiting Pakistan is considered a disqualification of VISA to countries like USA etc.;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to consider the demand of Sikh population and Nanak Naam Leva population for making the visit to the Sri Kartarpur Sahib passport free and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make travels to Sri Kartarpur passport free?

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 Gurudwara 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 citizens as well as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders, from India to Gurudwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan on a daily basis, throughout the year. To facilitate the visit, 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) have been built on the Indian side.

Representations have been received to make the visit to Gurudwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur through the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor passport-free. However, the Bilateral Agreement signed between India and Pakistan on 24 October 2019 mandates that pilgrims shall travel on valid passport.

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 from those who visit Gurudwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur through the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor. Pakistan, however, continues to levy USD 20 per head for each visit.

Since its inauguration on 9 November 2019, the Kartarpur corridor has been used by more than 1,10,670 Indians and OCI card holders to visit Gurudwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur. The Kartarpur corridor remains functional on all seven days of the week.
