

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1828
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.05.2016**

VISA TO HINDUS IN PAKISTAN

1828. DR. BHOLA SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the population of Hindus/Sikhs in Pakistan at present;**
- (b) whether Hindus in Pakistan are not given visa to perform their customs in India and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to impress upon Pakistani authorities to allow Hindus to visit Haridwar?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]**

(a) Due to absence of census in Pakistan since 1998, no official figures in respect of population of Pakistan are available. However, according to the information hosted on the website of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Hindus comprise 1.6% of the population, i.e, approximately 30 lakhs. No official figures for Sikh population in Pakistan are available.

(b) & (c) Pakistani Hindus desiring to come to India on pilgrimage apply for the necessary Indian visa at the High Commission of India in Islamabad. These applications are processed as per the existing rules and guidelines of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, wherein the Government of Pakistan has no locus standi.
