

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:493  
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003  
RESUMPTION OF DELHI-LAHORE BUS SERVICES  
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI

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

- (a) whether the Union Government have accorded clearance for the resumption of Delhi-Lahore bus service;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Pakistan has responded in a similar manner;
- (d) if so, whether a Pakistani delegation visited India in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which the services is likely to be fully operational?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ( SHRI VINOD KHANNA )

(a - f) Prime Minister had, on April 18, 2003, extended once again the hand of friendship to Pakistan. In his telephone conversation with Pakistan's Prime Minister on April 28, 2003, Prime Minister had emphasized the importance of economic cooperation, cultural exchanges, people-to- people contacts and civil aviation links for creating a climate conducive to addressing more difficult issues. In this context, Government had, on May 26, 2003, approved the resumption of Delhi-Lahore bus service as soon as the details were worked out by the technical authorities of two countries. A technical team from Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation visited India and a technical level meeting was held between the two countries on June 19-20, 2003 in New Delhi. Subsequently, the bus resumed service from July 11, 2003.