

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3303
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
VISIT OF PAKISTANI PILGRIMS
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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- (a) the names of pilgrim centres in the country which are presently thrown open to Pakistani pilgrims ;
- (b) Whether the Government proposes to open more pilgrim centres for Pakistanis;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is a proposal to hold a Pakistani Film Festival in India; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) In terms of the bilateral `Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines-1974`, the Pakistani pilgrims are permitted to visit the following pilgrim centres:

1. Hazrat Khawaja Moinuddin Chisti, Ajmer Sharif
2. Hazrat Amir Khurso, Delhi
3. Hazrat Mujaddid Alf Sani, Sirhand Sharif
4. Hazarat Khawaja Allauddin Ali Ahmad Sabiri, Kalyar Sharif
5. Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia, Delhi

As a measure to increase people to people contact between the two countries, Government has also been allowing additional pilgrim places outside the Protocol.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the Secretary (Culture) level talks held on July 26-27, 2005 in Islamabad, it was agreed to expand the Protocol to increase the number of shrines in both the countries as also the number of pilgrims. The details of additional pilgrim centres will be finalised by mutual consultation.

(d) Yes, Sir

(e) This will be finalised by mutual consultation.