

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1659

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2007

GROUP TOURISM BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to permit group tourism between India and Pakistan, increasing the number of religious shrines that pilgrims from either country can visit on the other side ;
- (b) if so, the details of scheme prepared therefor ;
- (c) whether any consensus has been reached between the two countries on the proposal; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a), (b) (c) & (d): As per the existing provision, Pakistani nationals consisting a group of not less than ten persons are entitled for fourteen days non- extendable group tourist visa. However, in the proposed revised draft visa agreement between India and Pakistan, which is yet to be finalized by Ministry of Home Affairs, there is a provision that Group Tourist Visa can be used by the tourists as well as pilgrims of the two countries.