

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2069  
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005  
VISAS TO PAKISTANIS TO WITNESS CRICKET MATCHES  
Nedurumalli Janardhana Reddy Shri

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has decided to issue Visas liberally to the people from Pakistan visiting India to witness Indo-Pakistan Cricket matches;
- (b) if so, the number of Visas issued/proposed to be issued in this regard; and
- (c) the procedure that has been devised to ensure that people of dubious or suspicious character who can foment trouble in India are not issued Visas?

**Answer**

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

- (a) In keeping with its policy of encouraging people to people contact, Government had taken a policy decision to give visas to all Pakistani nationals who want to visit India for the cricket matches, provided they have valid tickets for the matches.
- (b) The High Commission of India in Islamabad has issued 3223 visas to Pakistani nationals to see the first cricket match at Mohali.
- (c) The visas have been issued only after following due procedures and making the necessary checks.