

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3128
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
RE-OPENING OF HUSSAINIWALA BORDER
Mann Sardar Zora Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to re-open the Hussainiwala Indo-Pak Border in district Ferozepur, Punjab that was closed in the aftermath of 1971 Indo-Pak war;
- (b) if not, the steps likely to be initiated by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the time by when the said border is likely to be re-opened?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c) : It is the policy of the Government of India to promote trade and economic relations with Pakistan and encourage people to people contacts between the two countries. In keeping with this policy, during EAM Shri K. Natwar Singh's recent visit to Pakistan from February 15-17, 2005, agreements were reached with Pakistan to start bus services between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, and between Lahore and Amritsar, including to religious places such as Nankana Sahib.

The government would examine other routes after the implementation of the routes currently in pipeline.