

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3457  
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009  
EXPRESS LINK TO SIKH SHRINES IN PAKISTAN  
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh

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

he progress made so far to provide a direct express link between the historic Sikh Shrines located at Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan and Dera Baba Nanak in India?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

In October 2005, a draft to revise the existing Protocol on Visit to Religious Shrines, 1974, was handed over to Pakistan. The draft proposes increase in the number of pilgrims as also Shrines to be visited, including Kartarpur Sahib. Pakistan is yet to respond to the proposal. During the visit of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan to India in June 2008, it was proposed by us that a team from India could be sent to Kartarpur Sahib to work out the modalities for pilgrimage.