

#### Visitors from Pakistan

785. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of visitors from Pakistan in India during last two years;
- (b) the categories of visa along with the number; and
- (c) the number of Indians who went to Pakistan under various categories, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The total number of visitors from Pakistan during 2008 and 2009, as per data compiled by Bureau of Immigration is 79,783 and 53,154 respectively. Category-wise data on foreigners visiting India is not compiled by the Bureau of Immigration.

High Commission of India, Islamabad has provided information on total number of visas issued category-wise which is given below:-

S.No.	Visa Category	Year 2008	Year 2009
1	Business	8156	2733
2	Conference	3269	1495
3	Visit	81339	42032
4	Medical/Medical Attendant	1822	1500
5	Others	526	4186
	Total	95112	51946

(c) The number of Indians who went to Pakistan in 2008 and 2009 was 85672 and 44949 respectively. Figures for Indians going abroad are not compiled according to the categories of visas they hold, by the Immigration authorities.

#### Appointment of Punjabi knowing officers

786. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has appointed Second Secretary, Hindi and Cultural Attache in various countries to facilitate the NRIs;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Punjabi speaking NRIs are in large numbers in USA, UK, Canada, Thailand and Singapore;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to provide Punjabi Officers like the one mentioned above; and
- (d) whether his Ministry has also facilities to read correspondence in Punjabi and to provide reply in Punjabi in these countries since Punjabi is one of the national languages of India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Posts of Second Secretary (Hindi & Culture) exist in the Indian Missions in Port Louis, Port of Spain and Suva. Posts of Attache (Hindi & Culture) exist in the Indian Missions in London, Kathmandu and Paramaribo. The purpose of these posts is to promote the Official Language of India and Indian culture in these countries in view of large PIO populations there, rather than to facilitate NRIs.

(b) to (d) Indian Missions and Posts are mandated to provide services to all PIOs and NRIs. Specific posts or facilities do not exist for targeted sub-groups within the NRI population.

#### **Water sharing problem with Pakistan**

787. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan Government has stated that a war between Pakistan and India may take place on the issue of stealing Pakistan's river water and can also back out the Indus Water Treaty if India tries to build any more dams that affect the Pakistan's share of water; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Government has seen reports regarding the remarks made by Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Education, Sardar Aseff Ali, stating, inter alia, that India will have to stop "stealing" Pakistan's water as Pakistan will not hesitate to wage war with New Delhi if it does not stop doing so, that the distribution of water is a sensitive issue and it may trigger a war between India and Pakistan, and that Pakistan might seek international arbitration on the water issue by taking it up with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) or the United Nations Security Council if India tried to construct any more dams that affect Pakistan's share of water.

(b) The allegation that India has denied Pakistan the share of water it is entitled to under the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan, is completely baseless and has been categorically rejected. The Government is in full compliance with the Treaty. All issues regarding the implementation of the Treaty should be resolved through the existing mechanisms under the IWT.

#### **Playing of National Anthem at South Asian Games in Dhaka**

788. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a few days back India's National Anthem was abruptly played at South Asian Games in Dhaka and was immediately stopped in its track;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.