

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?