

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2642
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2021

VANDALISM OF HOLY PLACES IN PAKISTAN

†2642. **DR. ANIL JAIN:**

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

- (a) whether Government has identified holy places and temples in other countries including Pakistan;
- (b) whether Government had identified holy places of Pakistan for pilgrimage under the Protocol on visits to Religious Shrines, 1974 signed between India and Pakistan, if so, the current status of holy places and temples in this regard; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that Mata Rani Bhatiyani Mandir situated in Sindh, the holy Shri Nankana Sahib Gurudwara and Gandhara style Buddha statue in Mardan of Pakistan had been vandalised and desecrated on 26th January, 2020, 3rd March, 2020 and 18th July, 2020 respectively?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) to (c) The Government has identified 15 religious shrines in Pakistan for pilgrimage under the 1974 Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines between India and Pakistan. The details of these shrines are attached at the Annexure. These 15 pilgrimage sites in Pakistan are maintained by the Evacuee Trust Property Board, Government of Pakistan.

The Government has come across reports regarding vandalism and desecration of places of religious worship belonging to the minority communities in Pakistan. These include the reports of vandalism and desecration of Mata Rani Bhatiyani Mandir in Sindh on 26 January, 2020, the holy Sri Nankana Sahib Gurudwara on 3 January, 2020 and a Gandhara-style Buddha statue in Mardan on 18 July, 2020. The Government has strongly condemned these reprehensible acts and called upon Pakistan to ensure the safety, security and welfare of the members of the minority communities in Pakistan, including their places of worship, and to take immediate measures to expeditiously bring the perpetrators of such acts to justice.

Annexure to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2642

The religious shrines identified under 1974 Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines between India and Pakistan in Pakistan are:

1. Shadani Darbar in Hyat Pitafi, Ghotki, Sindh
2. Katasraj Dham in Chakwal, Punjab
3. Gurudwaras of Nankana Sahib, Punjab
4. Gurudwara Panja Sahib, Hassan Abdal, Attock, Punjab
5. Samadhi of Marahaja Ranjit Singh Ji, Lahore, Punjab
6. Gurudwara Dera Sahib, Lahore, Punjab
7. Gurudwara Janam Asthan, Nankana Sahib, Punjab
8. Gurudwara Deewan Khana, Lahore, Punjab
9. Gurudwara Shaheed Ganj, Singhanian, Lahore, Punjab
10. Gurudwara Bhai Tara Singh, Lahore, Punjab
11. Gurudwara of Sixth Guru, Mozang, Lahore, Punjab
12. Birth place of Guru Ram Das, Lahore, Punjab
13. Gurudwara Cheveen Padshahi, Mozang, Lahore, Punjab
14. Shrine of Hazrat Data Ganj Baksh, Lahore, Punjab
15. Sadhu Bela, Khanpur and Mirpur Mathelo, Sindh
