

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 707
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2017**

Infiltration of spies disguised as pilgrims

707 Shri Anubhav Mohanty

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether lot of pilgrims come to our country every year from the neighbouring countries;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that some of those pilgrims intentionally get lost and do not return to their country;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the spies of foreign countries take advantage of such situation and infiltrate for malicious activities causing threat to the national security; and
- (d) if so, what action Government has taken to ensure that such activities of infiltration are completely checked and controlled?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): Pilgrim visa is granted to Pakistani nationals to visit religious shrines in India. It has been reported that some Pakistani nationals belonging to minority communities in Pakistan, mainly Hindus and Sikhs, who came to India on Group Pilgrim Visa have not returned to Pakistan on the ground of religious persecution in Pakistan.
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(c): No specific inputs are available in this regard.

(d): The Central Government has issued detailed instructions on 28th July, 2015 laying down stringent conditions for grant of Group Pilgrim Visa to minority communities in Pakistan to visit religious places in India. According to these instructions, there will be a restriction on the number in each group to a maximum of 50, with a group leader for every group. Further, the group leader will be responsible for police reporting for entire group and also to ensure that members of group enter India together, travel within India together and exit India together.
