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QUESTION NO- 1041 KAILASH MANSAROVAR YATRA

 February 13, 2025

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1041
ANSWERED ON- 13/02/2025

KAILASH MANSAROVAR YATRA

1041. DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra from this summer;
- (b) if so, the details of the agreement reached with China to facilitate the resumption of the Yatra;
- (c) whether any initiatives are being planned for the operation of direct flights between India and China;
- (d) whether steps have been taken to enhance co-operation with China on sharing data of cross-border rivers and promoting cultural exchanges; and
- (e) whether any activities are being planned to commemorate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and China in 2025, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to e) Government of India (GOI) organises the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra every year between June and September, through the two official routes of Lipulekh Pass (since 1981) in Uttarakhand and Nathu La Pass (since 2015) in Sikkim. The Yatra has not taken place since 2020 following the COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent non-renewal of Yatra arrangements by the Chinese Side.

Indian side has taken up the issue of resumption of Kailash Manasarovar Yatra with the Chinese side in its diplomatic engagements. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar met China's Foreign Minister, Mr. Wang Yi on the sidelines of G-20 Summit on 18 November 2024 in Rio de Janeiro. The resumption of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra was discussed in the meeting. The issue was also discussed in the 23rd meeting of the Special Representatives of India and China on the Boundary Question held on 18 December 2024 in Beijing.

Most recently, Foreign Secretary met Vice Foreign Minister of China on 27 January 2025. They reviewed the state of India-China bilateral relations comprehensively and agreed to take certain people-centric steps. In this context, the two sides decided to resume the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra in the summer of 2025. They also agreed to hold an early meeting of the India-China Expert Level Mechanism to discuss resumption of provision of hydrological data and other cooperation pertaining to trans-border rivers. They agreed in principle to resume direct air services between the two countries. To mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China in 2025, the two sides agreed to undertake commemorative activities to create better awareness about each other and restore mutual trust and confidence among the public.

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