

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2185
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2002
HAJ FLIGHTS FROM LUCKNOW AND NAGPUR AIRPORTS
ANANDRAO ADSUL;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have made special arrangements for the Haj Pilgrims of this year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have decided to make Lucknow as the additional points for operation of Haj flights from this year;
- (d) if so, whether Muslim population of the Vidarbha region and its adjoining areas have been urging continuously upon the Government to extend such a facility at Nagpur airport;
- (e) if so, whether Government propose to start some flights from this year; and
- (f) if not, the reasons for not starting the Haj flight from Nagpur?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) and (b) : The Government have made necessary arrangements to carry about 72,000 haj pilgrims from 10 embarkation points in India to Jeddah and back during Haj-2002 by Indian Airlines, Air India and Saudi Arabian Airlines. The embarkation points are Ahmedabad, Bombay, Bangalore, Calicut, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Srinagar. For the first time, return boarding cards of different colour were provided. Remote check-in facilities were also arranged to avoid crowding in the terminals. All embarkation points have been provided with Real Time Connectivity including the office of the Consul General of India, Jeddah.

(c) : Yes, Sir.

(d) : Requests have been received from Members of Parliament to start haj flights from Nagpur Airport.

(e) and (f) : Starting a new embarkation point at Nagpur is a policy decision which can be taken only after due consultation with Ministry of External Affairs and Central Haj Committee. Normally, the Government plans not more than one embarkation point per State as many States do not have even one.