

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5210
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2000
MISSING BAGGAGES OF HAJ PILGRIMS
C. KUPPUSAMI;PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned 'Haj Pilgrims found their baggages missing' appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated March 23, 2000 and 'All leaves Haj Pilgrims stranded in Jeddah' as appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated March 27, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to find missing baggages of Haj Pilgrims?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

(SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a), (b) & (c) :- Yes, Sir. There were some initial glitches but flights were operated on schedule. The problem of missing baggage basically arises because haj pilgrims have considerable excess baggage. Every aircraft can fly only with pre-determined load which includes passengers, baggage and cargo. The excess baggage left behind by the pilgrims were cleared by Air India on its scheduled flights.