

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3086
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
SUBSIDY FOR PILGRIMAGE ABROAD
Sangliana Shri H.T.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Union Government has been extending subsidy for pilgrimage of Indians abroad;
- (b) If so, the total expenditure incurred during the last five years, community-wise; and
- (c) The names of the approved pilgrimage centres for grant of such subsidies?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (c) Government has been extending subsidy towards airfare for Haj pilgrims going through the Haj Committee of India. Total expenditure during the last five years on account of subsidy has been as follows:

Year Subsidy (in crores)

2001	156.58
2002	173.63
2003	172.63
2004	160.70
2005	179.66

figures are provisional.

In addition, the government facilitates the pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar in China. The government pays Rs. 3250/- (Rupees three thousand two hundred and fifty only) for each pilgrim to Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) for arrangements made by them for this Yatra. In addition, during the course of the Yatra, facilities provided by the Government to the pilgrims include free medical assistance, security and escort cover by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) till the Lipulekh Pass on the Indian side, provision of satellite phone and a Liaison Officer for each batch of pilgrims for use during emergency throughout the Yatra.

Expenditure incurred by the Government on account of payments for pilgrims to KMVN, logistical arrangements, communication links and publicity for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra over the last five years are as follows:

2001	Rs. 29,95,000
2002	Rs. 33,64,000
2003	Rs. 31,00,000
2004	Rs. 37,94,748
2005	Rs. 38,80,386