

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2504
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2007
FLIGHTS FOR HAJ PILGRIMAGE
Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has started to undertake any survey to estimate the number of the Haj pilgrims going on the Haj pilgrimage every year from each State of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of the Haj pilgrims travelling by the Indian Airlines, Air India and other private Indian aircraft during the last three years and the current year alongwith the number of the pilgrims who propose to travel by them with State-wise details thereof;
- (d) the details of the assistance and facilities being provided by the Government to the Haj pilgrims in the said period;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to increase the services of the Indian Airlines and other airlines for the proposed Haj pilgrimage in November-December, 2007; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b): No, Sir. Like previous year, the Haj Committee of India has invited applications in respect of pilgrims desirous of going for Haj-2007 from each state. This year, the Haj Committee has received 1,90,000 applications through the State Haj Committees against the Government quota of 1,10,000. Apart from this, 47,000 pilgrims would be going for Haj 2007 through Private Tour Operators.

(c): The number of pilgrims Airlifted by Air India, Indian Airlines and Saudi Airlines during the last three years are as under:

Year	Air India	Indian Airlines	Saudi Arabia	Total
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2005	25479	6768	48775	81022
2006-I	36441	6368	57203	100012
2006-II	36631	12798	5944	108872

A statement showing the State-wise number of pilgrims who propose to travel in the current Haj-2007 is annexed.

(d): The Government provides subsidy in airfare, makes arrangements for the transportation of the Haj pilgrims going through the Haj Committee of India and facilitates provision of accommodation and other logistic support for them. In addition of this, the Haj Committee of India provides to the pilgrims information regarding confirmation of their seats, travel documents, transportation, accommodation, medical assistance, release of foreign exchange, information on embarkation points and departure dates etc. Air India allows baggage allowance of 45 kgs per pilgrim, 10 liter of Zam Zam water free of cost and excess baggage at a subsidized rate.

(e) and (f): Besides making arrangements for transportation of 1,10,000 pilgrims under the Government quota Air India operates additional scheduled service in case of need to facilitate the transportation of the balance pilgrims going for Haj through the Private Tour Operators.