

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1067

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2008

ASSISTANCE TO HAJ PILGRIMS

Deora Shri Milind Murl;Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy;Nizamuddin Shri G.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indians actually performed Haj Pilgrimage during 2007 through Haj Committee and various travel agencies, State-wise;
- (b) whether a number of Indian Haj pilgrims died during the above pilgrimage;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate assistance to the ailing Haj pilgrims and the kins of the deceased?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) The State-wise figures of 110,415 pilgrims, who performed Haj-2007 through Haj Committee of India, are given at Annexure-I. Around 47,000 pilgrims performed Haj during Haj-2007 through various Private Tour Operators. The State-wise figures of quota allocated to Private Tour Operators for Haj 2007 is given at Annexure-II.

(b) & (c) During Haj-2007, a total number of 290 pilgrims (191 male and 99 female) expired in Saudi Arabia. Of this, 212 went through the Haj Committee of India and remaining 78 went through different private tour operators. 11 deaths occurred due to road traffic accidents and the remaining 279 deaths were due to natural causes.

(d) The Government of India made the following arrangements for the welfare of the Haj pilgrims during 2007:

i) A total number of 115 doctors and 141 paramedics were deputed to Saudi Arabia by the Government.

ii) Arrangements were made to provide 75-bedded admission facility in Makkah and 15-bedded admission facility in Madina for Indian pilgrims. Apart from a 30-bedded hospital in Makkah, 12 branch dispensaries were set up in Makkah and 6 branch dispensaries were set up in Madina. Three medical teams were available at Jeddah Airport to provide medical care round the clock. 17 ambulances were pressed into service of Haj pilgrims. Medicines costing approximately Rs. 1.28 crores were sent by the Government from India and medicines costing approximately Rs. 4.2 lakhs were procured locally.

iii) Pilgrims who went through the Haj Committee of India and who died due to unnatural causes such as traffic accidents etc., the admissible compensation to their next of kin is provided by the insurance company through the accident compensation scheme of the Haj Committee of India. The Private Tour Operators who are registered with the Ministry are also required to insure their pilgrims against accident, on the lines of the accident compensation scheme of the Haj Committee of India and compensate the next of kin of such pilgrims who die due to unnatural causes like accidents.