

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3516  
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004  
FACILITIES TO PILGRIMS VISITING KAILASH MANSAROVAR  
Harsha Kumar Shri G.V.

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the pilgrims performing Kailash Mansarovar Yatra have been facing poor facilities as reported in The Pioneer dated September 14, 2004;
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) Government is aware that the facilities provided on the Chinese side to the pilgrims performing the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra still leave room for improvement. This, however, should also be viewed in context of the difficult terrain and the lack of infrastructure along the Yatra route.

(c) It is Government's endeavour to improve and upgrade facilities on a continuing basis for the pilgrims going on Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. Government has, from time to time, raised with the Chinese Government issues regarding the improvement of facilities on their side for the pilgrims. An official delegation from India visited Tibet Autonomous Region in August 2002 to, inter alia, discuss these issues with the Chinese authorities. The Chinese side has agreed to make further improvements in the conditions for the pilgrims in a step-by-step manner. There has been progressive improvement over the years.