

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:698

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2009

ADDITIONAL ROUTES TO KAILASH MANSAROVAR PILGRIMAGE

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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of pilgrims visited Kailash Mansarovar during the last three years and the current year alongwith the expenditure incurred/subsidy provided by the Government during each of these years;
- (b) whether India has suggested additional routes for Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrimage to China for their consideration;
- (c) if so,the details thereof alongwith the response of the Chinese Government thereto;and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the matter with the Chinese authorities?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) The number of people who have undertaken the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and in the last three years is as follows:

Year No of people who undertook the Yatra

2006 592

2007 674

2008 401

For the current year, the process of selection of Yatris is still underway.

The expenditure incurred by the Government each year on communications,logistics, security and administrative arrangements related to the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is between Rs.50 to 60 lakhs.

(b) to (d) During the visit of President Hu Jintao of China to India from November 20 to 23,2006,the two sides agreed to explore the possibility of opening an additional route.We have proposed additional routes to the Chinese side for their consideration.