

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1576

ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009

COMPULSORY INTERNATIONAL PASSPORT FOR HAJ

Ajmal Shri Badruddin;Singh Shri Uma Shanaker

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

- (a) whether compulsory International Passport is required for Haj pilgrims during the year 2009;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard ?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) Yes.

(b)&(c) Government has issued new policy guidelines to all the Passport Offices after consultation with the National and State Haj Committees to ensure that no Haj pilgrim faces any hurdles in obtaining his/her passport to undertake the pilgrimage. All passport offices have been instructed that the Haj passports should be handed over to the Haj pilgrims/Haj Committee within the due date stipulated by the Committee to ensure that no Hajis face any difficulty in undertaking the sacred journey.