

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1632

ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009

PILGRIMS OF KAILASH MANSAROVAR

Singh Shri Ganesh;Sushant Dr. Rajan;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government conducts Kailash Mansarovar Yatra every year;
- (b) if so, the formalities involved therein alongwith the facilities provided to the pilgrims;
- (c) the amount each pilgrim has to pay;
- (d) whether the Government provides subsidy to the Mansarovar Pilgrims on the pattern of Haj Pilgrims;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Government of China has restricted the pilgrims from taking liquid and semi-liquid substances with them;
- (g) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (h) whether the Government has raised this issue with the Chinese Government; and
- (i) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Chinese Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) to (e) The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is organized for citizens of India by the Ministry of External Affairs in sixteen batches of upto 60 persons each from 1 June to the end of September every year in coordination with the Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). An advertisement seeking applications is carried in several newspapers and on Doordarshan and AIR in January every year. The selection of the Yatri is done through a computer generated gender balanced random selection process. In 2009, each Yatri is required to pay an amount of Rs. 20,000/- [Rupees Twenty thousand only] to KMVN and US\$ 700/- [US Dollars Seven hundred only] to the Chinese side. Government does not provide subsidy to the Yatri.

(f) to (i) Government is aware that Chinese authorities at the border customs point in Lipulekh Pass are not permitting liquid and semi-liquid items to be carried into the People's Republic of China. It is the sovereign right of a country to regulate movement of goods across international borders. The matter has not been taken up with the Chinese side.