

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:575
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009
SELECTION OF HAJ PILGRIMS
Bheiravdanji Shri Gadhvi Mukeshkumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to set up any next mechanism for selecting yatris for Haj;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present criteria adopted for selection of Haj yatris; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) No.

(b)&(c) The present mechanism is transparent and serving the Hajis well. Starting this year, the intending yatris make an application to the Haj Committee of India. Subsequently, a 'Qurrah' [computerized selection by lots] is held for the allotted quota to each State which is allocated in accordance with the percentage of Muslim population in a particular State as per 2001 census. The random selection of the Haj yatris is conducted through a publicly held 'Qurrah' in the presence of public, prominent community members and leaders. Those successful in the Qurrah are the selected Haj yatris