

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5396
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010
IRREGULARITIES IN DISTRIBUTION OF HAJ QUOTA
Shariq Shri Sharief Ud Din

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there have been irregularities and malpractices in distribution of Haj quota to Private Tour Operators (PTOs) in the year 2009;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of complaints received in this regard;
- (c) whether any inquiry was conducted into the matter;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to transfer this subject to the Ministry of Minority Affairs;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the details of coordination being made with different agencies in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): No. Quota to Private Tour Operators during Haj – 2009 was allocated strictly according to the policy framed for the matter which was widely publicized. The distribution of PTOs quota for Haj-2009 was done as per the following policy:

(i) All the old PTOs who got quota in 2008 and had been found eligible for the year were allocated quota of minimum 50 seats provided their quota allocation during 2008 was 50 seats or more.

(ii) Those PTOs who were applying since last three Haj seasons but no quota had been allocated to them in the previous year were allocated a quota of minimum 50 seats provided they were otherwise eligible.

(iii) Those PTOs who were applying since last two Haj seasons but no quota had been allocated to them in the previous year were allocated a quota of minimum 50 seats provided they were otherwise eligible.

(iv) The PTOs who had applied only in Haj 2008 and those fresh applicants who have applied in 2009 were not considered for allocation of quota for Haj-2009.

(v) The effort was to make the distribution and release of private tour operators quota in a more rational and transparent manner by applying the policy decided by the government uniformly among the old and new Private Tour Operators (PTOs) in order to ensure that there is a healthy competition among the old and new PTOs and the Haj pilgrims travelling through PTOs have a choice. All information in this regard was made public through the websites of the Haj Committee of India & Ministry of External Affairs.

(e) to (g): No. The Haj Committee Act 2002 has made the Ministry of External Affairs the nodal Ministry for Haj related work.