

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:562
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010
ARRANGEMENTS FOR HAJ
Deora Shri Milind Murlu

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that tens of thousands of Indian pilgrims intending to perform Haj this year may not find accommodation in the holy cities in Saudi Arabia when they reach there in November;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken made by the Government to find alternative accommodation for the pilgrims in Saudi Arabia during Haj 2010?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) to (c) The commencement of hiring of accommodation for Haj pilgrims in the holy cities in Saudi Arabia was delayed on account of a pending court case. However, in spite of initial delay, the process of hiring accommodation has been proceeding well since June 2010 and it is expected that sufficient number of units of accommodation would be hired well before the commencement of the Haj season.