

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1754  
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010  
ACCOMMODATION CHARGES FOR HAJ  
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to increase the accommodation charges for Haj Pilgrims as reported in the media;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the estimated financial burden as a result thereof on each pilgrim for performing Haj Yatra; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to exempt poor Haj Pilgrims from the increased accommodation charges?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) The accommodation charges for Haj pilgrims are fixed and regulated by the Saudi Authorities and the Government of India does not have any role in it. Saudi Authorities have increased the minimum area requirement for Haj pilgrims from 3.5 sq. mts. to 4 sq. mts. per pilgrim with effect from Haj - 2010 resulting in proportionate increase in the accommodation charges. The rates effective during Haj - 2009 and Haj - 2010 are tabulated below:

| Category | Rental Charge in<br>Saudi Riyal per<br>unit for Haj -2009 | Rental Charge in<br>Saudi Riyal per<br>unit during HAJ - 2010 |
|----------|---|---|
| Green    | SR 3500   | SR 4000   |
| White    | SR 2800   | SR 3200   |
| Azizziah | SR 2200   | SR 2500   |

|          |         |         |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Green    | SR 3500 | SR 4000 |
| White    | SR 2800 | SR 3200 |
| Azizziah | SR 2200 | SR 2500 |

(d) Accommodation charges are required to be paid by the pilgrims on the basis of actuals.