

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4166
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2010
SUBSIDY TO HAJ PILGRIMAGE IN AIR TRAVEL
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the people who perform Haj pilgrimage every year are carried only by Air India and no private airline is allowed in this regard;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the entire subsidy towards the cost of Haj pilgrimage is borne by the Air India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the subsidy burden by asking the private airlines to share the cost of subsidy as part of their corporate social responsibility?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b): For Haj 2009, the pilgrims were carried by Air India, Saudi Arabian Airlines and National Air Services(NAS). However, none of the eligible private scheduled airline of India responded to the 'Expression of Interest' issued by Air India for participation in Haj operations.

(c) and (d): The pilgrims performing Haj through the Haj Committee of India have been paying Rs.12000/- as to and fro fare since 1994. The travel cost over and above Rs.12000/- per pilgrim is borne by the Government.

(e): The airlines cannot be asked to share the cost of subsidy as part of their corporate social responsibility.

However, Government has proposed to increase the pilgrims share of the fare by Rs.4000/- each year to Rs. 16000/- to reduce the subsidy burden.