

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1602
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2010
AIRFARE FOR HAJ PILGRIMS
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has hiked the airfares for Haj pilgrims this year;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the current fares for each Haj pilgrim and the separate details of actual fares and subsidy thereon;
- (d) the expected number of Haj pilgrims going from India for Haj this year;
- (e) the details of assistance provided to Haj pilgrims by the Union Government during the last year;
- (f) whether the Government has received any representation to withdraw the hiked fares; and
- (g) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a), (b) and (c): Yes, Madam. The to and fro airfare for Haj Pilgrims will be Rs.16,000/- instead of Rs.12,000/- which was last fixed in 1996. This entails a subsidy of approximately Rs.47,600/- per pilgrim.
- (d): Approximately 171000 pilgrims are going for Haj-2010.
- (e): Last year, Government has borne an amount of Rs.690 crore (Prov.) as subsidy on air fare of Ballotee Pilgrims. Haj pilgrims are entitled to air travel facilities as are available to international passengers.
- (f): No Madam.
- (g): Does not arise.