

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2464
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010
HAJ PILGRIMS FROM ASSAM
Ajmal Shri Badruddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the first batch of Haj Pilgrims of Assam 2010 had to wait at Guwahati Airport for hours without immunity and with great hardship;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that hundreds of Haj pilgrims of Assam would not be able to perform their Haj due to non-issuance of visa in time;
- (d) if so the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): Yes. First flight from Guwahati was delayed because of the late arrival of aircraft from Saudi Arabia. However, all the pilgrims were properly attended to and looked after as per the terms and conditions of the MOU signed between the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the air charter company, i.e. Al-Wafeer Air.
- (c) & (d): No. Only 17 pilgrims from Assam could not proceed on Haj due to delay in issue of passports and visa.
- (e): It is the constant endeavour of the Government to make improvements in the arrangements for the Haj pilgrims and provide them with better facilities after taking into account the feedback from all concerned.