

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2272
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009
AMARNATH PILGRIMS
Ramasubbu Shri S.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons who undertook the Amarnath pilgrimage during the last three years and the estimates for the current year alongwith the expenditure incurred;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to introduce subsidy and provide other facilities to the pilgrims;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which the above proposals are likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a): The year-wise number of pilgrims who undertook the Amarnath pilgrimage during las three years and the total expenditure incurred by Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board is as under:

Year	No. of pilgrims	Expenditure Rs. In lacs
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2006	3,47,000	265.69
2007	2,96,656	300.18
2008	5,33,368	284.95

During the current year till 15th July 2009, a total of 3,01,297 pilgrims paid obeisance at the Holy Cave. The number of Yatris for the Current year will increase and cannot be estimated as it will depend on weather, etc.

Apart from the Shrine Board, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir also earmarks funds for providing various civic amenities. The details of such expenditure are not centrally maintained.

(b): There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to grant subsidy to Amarnath pilgrims.

(c) & (d): Doesn't arise in view of (b) above.