

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3525
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010
PILGRIMS TO KAILASH MANSAROVAR
Sardinha Shri Francisco

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of pilgrims who visited Kailash Manasarovar during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the total amount spent on this annually and the facilities provided to the pilgrims by the Government;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide subsidy to the pilgrims going on Kailash Manasarovar pilgrimage on the lines of Haj pilgrims;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) The number of pilgrims who visited Kailash Manasarovar by participating in the Yatra organized by the Ministry of External Affairs during the last three years is as under :

Year No. of Yatris

2007	674
2008	402
2009	607

(b) Government of India arranges, on self-payment basis, facilities like transportation, accommodation, fresh food, security, medical tests, guides, Chinese visa and foreign exchange and porters and ponies for carrying goods and belongings of Yatris. The same facilities are also made available on the Chinese side. Ministry of External Affairs appoints one Liaison Officer for each batch who is responsible for safety and well-being of Yatris of his batch. The Liaison Officer is also supplied with a satellite phone to communicate with the Ministry of External Affairs and various other concerned agencies like Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN), ITBP, Pithoragarh District Administration etc. in case of any emergency. Air lift of Yatris by helicopter is also arranged in case of medical emergency. ITBP and their Chinese counterpart keep track of Yatris and share information on their movement and whereabouts through wireless. Besides, the Ministry of External Affairs remains in regular contact with Chinese Foreign Ministry regarding smooth conduct of Kailash Manasarovar Yatra and upgrading of facilities for the Yatris on Chinese side. The total amount spent on this annually during last three years is as under:

Year Amount Spent

2007	Rs. 54,89,046/- plus US\$ 10,000/-
2008	Rs. 36,42,455/- plus US\$ 10,000/-
2009	Rs. 55,54,074/- plus US\$ 15,000/-

(c) to (e) Government of India does not give any subsidy to pilgrims participating in the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra. However, disbursements at the rate of Rs. 3250/- per Yatri is made to Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN), a Government of Uttarakhand Authority, for providing logistical support to Yatris.