

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2143

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011

COMPULSORY PASSPORT FOR HAJ

Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi;Mcleod Smt. Ingrid;Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Haj Committee of India has decided to accept applications for the Haj-2011 from only those who have valid passports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has taken steps to familiarise the public about this new rule; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Saudi Authorities have made it obligatory that the pilgrims proceeding for Haj should have valid Passport for endorsement of Haj visa. Accordingly since Haj-2009 all the Haj pilgrims have been traveling on international passports. Therefore, Haj Committee of India has decided that the intending pilgrims for Haj-2011 should submit the prescribed application form to their respective State/ Union Territory Haj Committee along with a copy of valid passport before the closing date. Persons who do not possess a passport should apply for passport first, and attach a copy of the receipt obtained from Regional Passport Office before submitting the application form.

(c) All Regional Passport Offices have been directed to issue passports to all intending pilgrims on priority basis.

(d) & (e) Haj Committee of India has given it proper publicity. The fact has also been posted at the website of the Haj Committee.