

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1832

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2011

FACILITIES FOR HAJ

Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Kashinath Shri Taware Suresh;Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons expected to perform Haj pilgrimage during the current year, State-wise;
- (b) whether adequate facilities exist for Haj pilgrims from India;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including complaints received in regard to deficient services and the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to enhance subsidy and other facilities during the forthcoming Haj pilgrimage; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) Statement showing State-wise number of pilgrims expected to perform Haj through Haj Committee of India during 2011 is placed at ANNEXURE – A. In addition, 45000 seats will be allocated to Private Tour Operators which is not done State-wise.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) to (e) Government of India assists the Haj pilgrims in coordination with the Haj Committee of India through –(i) provision of accommodation and other logistical support at Makkah, Madinah and Jeddah, (ii) Arranging short validity Passports and visas for selected Hajjis, (iii) Deputation of Doctors and paramedics, Coordinators, Assistant Haj Officers, Haj Assistants and Khadim-ul-Hujjaj to assist Hajjis during Haj, (iv) Setting up Hospitals, dispensaries and ambulances and supply of medicines to them in Makkah and Madinah. (v) Air travel from 21 embarkation points in India, (vi) The arrangements are reviewed at the Annual Haj Review Meeting and remedial action is taken on the basis of feedback received. Government also keeps a constant vigil on possibilities for improving the arrangements for Haj pilgrims