

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2643
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2011
HAJ PILGRIMAGE
Patil Shri C. R.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a meeting was held by him with the Members of Parliament in New Delhi on 7th March, 2011 to discuss matters relating to Haj Pilgrimage;
- (b) if so, the details of the issues discussed & consensus arrived at the meeting; and
- (c) the follow-up action being taken thereon?

Answer

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

(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) Issues discussed during the meeting were: i) Issues relating to subsidy to Haj pilgrims; ii) Scrapping Haj Goodwill Delegations; iii) Hiring of accommodation in Makkah & Madinah on long term basis; iv) Global tendering of air charter for the pilgrims; v) Sharing contents of the bilateral Haj Agreement signed between the Government of India and Saudi Arabia; vi) Abolition of PTO quota; vii) Regional balance in PTOs quota; viii) Inclusion of Ziyarat with Haj pilgrimage; ix) Shifting of Haj Committee of India's office from Mumbai to Delhi; x) Expeditious issuance of pilgrims' passports; xi) Coordination among Government, Haj Committees and airlines; xii) Delays in arrival/departure of charter flights; xiii) Compensation on account of loss of baggage of pilgrims; xiv) Release of seats to MPs from Government quota; xv) Higher air fare in charter flights; xvi) Adopting Malaysian model of Tabung Haji; xvii) Khadim-ul-hujjaj etc. The views expressed are being given due consideration.