

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4652

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2009

HAJ PILGRIMS

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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Haj Pilgrims ferried by the National Aviation Company of India Limited and the Saudi Arabian Airlines from the different embarkation points during 2008 alongwith comparative figures for 2006 and 2007;
- (b) the number of flights operated by these airlines for the purpose;
- (c) whether the aircraft were adequate enough to ferry all the haj pilgrims to Jeddah;
- (d) if so, the average amount spent on fare by each pilgrim alongwith the amount of subsidy provided by the Government per pilgrim;
- (e) the number of haj pilgrims to whom the said subsidy was provided;and
- (f) the total amount of subsidy provided by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a): National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL)ferried 64,247 pilgrims from different embarkation points in India for Haj 2008 as compared to 49,327 and 51,083 pilgrims for Haj 2006 and Haj 2007 respectively. Saudi Arabian Airlines (SAA) ferried 57,448 pilgrims from different embarkation points in India for Haj 2008 as compared to 59,191 and 58,917 pilgrims for Haj 2006 and Haj 2007 respectively.

(b): NACIL operated 278 flights for Haj 2008 as compared to 167 + scheduled flights and 162 flights for Haj 2006 and Haj 2007 respectively. SAA operated 198 flights for Haj 2008 as compared to 221 flights and 149 flights for Haj 2006 and Haj 2007 respectively.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): Each Haj pilgrim paid Rs.12,000/- towards airfare for Haj 2008. Same amount was paid for Haj 2006 and Haj 2007.The balance amount of airfare (subsidy) for each pilgrim paid by the Government for Haj 2008 was Rs.60,932/-(subject to audit) as compared to Rs.35,495/- and Rs.35,838/- for Haj 2006 and 2007 respectively.

(e): 1,21,695 Haj pilgrims travelled on subsidised fare during Haj 2008 as compared to 108,518 and 1,10,000 Haj pilgrims during Haj 2006 and Haj 2007 respectively.

(f): The total amount of subsidy provided by the Government for Haj 2008 was Rs.741.47 crores (subject to audit) as compared to Rs.385.14 crores and Rs.394.18 crores for Haj- 2006 and Haj 2007 respectively.