

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:219
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011
AMARNATH PILGRIMAGE
Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the participation level of the annual Amarnath pilgrimage;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether as compared to last year, more pilgrims lost their lives during the yatra this year;
- (d) if so, the main cause for increase in the number of casualties;
- (e) the details of logistical support for medical treatment provided to the injured; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for the safety of the pilgrims during the Amarnath Yatra in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) Yes, Madam.
- (b) The number of Yatris who undertook the annual Shri Amrnathi Pilgrimage during 2008-2011 is as under:-

Year	No. of pilgrims
2008	5,33,368
2009	3,92,653
2010	4,51,710
2011	6,35,611

- (c) 106 pilgrims lost their lives during the Yatra this year as compared to 77 deaths reported last year.
- (d) A number of Yatris have been losing their lives, mainly due to cardiac related ailments. This year the total deaths are 1.67% of the total pilgrims visited as compared to 1.70% during last year.
- (e) The medical facilities for Yatris and others are provided by the State Health Department. These are further supplemented by other agencies viz. Army, Central Police Organizations and Non-government Organizations.
- (f) As reported by Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, Government of J&K and the Board are continuously taking all the required steps for ensuring safe and comfortable pilgrimage and provide various facilities including medical facilities for the Yatris.