

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2240

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2011

HAJ PILGRIMS

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Kashinath Shri Taware Suresh;Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar;Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.;Shariq Shri Sharief Ud Din;Singh Baba Shri K.C.;Sugavanam Shri E.G.;Tirkey Shri Manohar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the actual number of pilgrims performed Haj during the last three years and the current year against the quota fixed for each year;
- (b) whether the Saudi authorities have requested for compulsory passport and visa for performing the Haj pilgrimage;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard;
- (d) whether adequate facilities like medical, accommodation, drinking water, sanitation etc. were provided to the pilgrims during the recently concluded Haj pilgrimage;
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the complaints received in regard to difficulties faced by the pilgrims and the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government thereon; and
- (f) the further steps taken by the Government for increase of Haj quota?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) The details regarding the actual number of pilgrims who performed Haj during the last three years and the current year against the quota fixed are as under:

Year	Quota	originally allotted	Actual number
2008	1,67,991	1,66,993	
2009	1,67,991	1,65,655	
2010	1,71,491	1,71,671	
2011	1,70,491	1,70,362	

(b) & (c) Yes. From 2009, the arrival of Haj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia is through international Passports only. The process of issuing Haj Pilgrim Passes has been discontinued. Accordingly, all pilgrims carry International Passport and Haj visas are stamped on it by Saudi Embassy/Consulate.

(d) & (e) Yes. Government of India makes exhaustive arrangements to facilitate the pilgrimage of Hajis. Round the clock medical facilities and other logistical support are extended to the Hajis. The entire Haj process was carefully planned and remedial actions in respect of envisaged problems were built into the Haj preparations for Haj 2011. Complaints, as and when received, were immediately redressed.

(f) The Haj quota is decided on the basis of bilateral agreement signed between Government of Saudi Arabia and Government of India annually.