

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3343
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2011
VISA TO HAJ PILGRIMAGE
Sukur Shri Jadhav Baliram

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of visas allotted to Union Government by the Government of Saudi Arabia this year for distribution amongst the Haj passengers;
- (b) the number of visas distributed against the Private Tour Operators, the Central Haj Committees and Faize-e-Husaini Trust;
- (c) whether the visas allotted to Private Operators include only Private Tour Operators already registered with the MEA or new entrants also causing concern to those who have applied for registration in 2008 and 2009 but could not get certificate so far; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) 1,70,491 visas.
- (b) Government allotted a quota of 1,25,000 to Haj Committee of India and 45,491 to Private Tour Operators.
- (c) Government allotted quota to old as well as new Private Tour Operators (PTOs) in accordance with the Haj 2011 PTO Policy.
- (d) Details of (c) above are available at the website of the Haj Committee of India, www.hajcommittee.com.