

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:105
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012
HAJ QUOTA
Verma Shri Sajjan Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Haj Quota fixed for various authorities/agencies/Wakf Boards/State Governments including Members of Parliament;
- (b) whether the quota was fixed long back;
- (c) if so, whether the Government proposes to increase quota; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF LOK STARRED QUESTION NO.105 REGARDING 'HAJ QUOTA' FOR ANSWER ON 21.03.2012

(a) Governments of India (GOI) and Saudi Arabia annually sign an Agreement in which the overall Haj Quota for India for the year is specified. For Haj 2011, Government of Saudi Arabia allocated 1,70,491 Haj seats to India - 1,25,000 for pilgrims going through the Haj Committee of India (HCOI) and 45,491 for pilgrims facilitated by Private Tour Operators (PTOs). The HCOI Haj quota is distributed among States /Union Territories (UT) in proportion to their Muslim population.

GOI reserves a Quota of 11,000 seats for Khadim-ul-Hujjaj, Mehrams, States /UTs with applications in excess of their Quota, individual applicants who did not get selected in the Qurrah but have an objective reason to perform Haj i.e. family obligation, age, health and are recommended by Hon'ble Ministers and Members of Parliament and other eminent persons, etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d) GOI requests the Saudi authorities every year for additional quota to accommodate, even if partially, the excess applications received by HCOI. In 2010 & 2011, 10,000 additional seats were released at GOI's request by the Saudi authorities and were distributed through the HCOI to States/UTs with applications in excess of allocated quota.