

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2348
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2012
HAJ PILGRIMS
Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of Haj pilgrims in India has decreased drastically on account of the decision of Saudi Arab Government making international passport mandatory for Haj;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the details of facilities being provided to the Haj pilgrims by the Union Government?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

- (a) No.
- (b) & (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Government of India assists the Haj pilgrims in coordination with the Haj Committee of India through – (i) provision of accommodation and other logistical support at Makkah, Madinah and Jeddah, (ii) Deputation of Doctors and paramedics, Coordinators, Assistant Haj Officers, Haj Assistants and Khadim-ul-Hujjaj to assist Hajis during Haj, (iii) setting up Hospitals, dispensaries and ambulances and supply of medicines to hajis in Makkah and Madinah, (iv) Facilitating Air travel from 21 embarkation points in India to Jeddah and back, (v) The arrangements are reviewed at the Annual Haj Review Meeting and remedial action is taken on the basis of feedback