

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4181
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012
HAJ PILGRIMS IN SAUDI ARABIA JAILS
Dhanaplan Shri K. P.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any information of Indian Haj Pilgrims being jailed in Saudi Arabia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to get them released immediately; and
- (d) the other steps taken by the Government to ensure that the Haj Pilgrims are not cheated by the fraudulent travel agencies?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes.
- (b) State-wise details are attached in ANNEXURE.
- (c) Consulate General of India, Jeddah, through the Indian Haj Mission, takes necessary action in case of arrests of Indian nationals. The General Welfare Wing established during the Haj season sends its Arabic knowing officials immediately after being informed of such arrests in the Holy Cities to the concerned locations. In many cases, our officials, given the facts and circumstances have been able to get the arrested individuals released. However, in cases where supporting evidence is available with the Saudi authorities to prove the alleged crime, the authorities follow standard legal procedures.
- (d) Complaints against Private Tour Operators (PTOs) relating to Haj pilgrims in Saudi Arabia or in India, if established, may entail blacklisting of the concerned PTO. The Indian Haj Mission in Jeddah has also established Haj squads to pay surprise visits to Hajjis coming through PTOs with a view to ascertain that the PTOs ensure the welfare and wellbeing of their Hajjis.

ANNEXURE

S.No. Name Cover/Passport Number State Reason of arrest Status

1. Javed Khan UPF-26406/J4017551 U.P. Mobile theft 8 months jail sentence
2. Zakir Husen Fulam Rasul Came through Private Gujarat Mobile theft 3 months jail
Tour Operator/ F-4633130
3. Safkul SK WBF-2638/ J847917 West Bengal Stealing a bag 1 year jail sentence