

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1501

ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012

AMARNATH YATRA

Kataria Shri Lal Chand;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Patil Shri A.T. Nana;Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons who took Amarnath pilgrimage during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the number of pilgrims who died in the course of the pilgrimage/journey during the said period;
- (c) the reasons for the deaths of the pilgrims during the current year;
- (d) the remedial measures taken by the Government to minimise such incidents;
- (e) whether any committee/panel has recommended to limit the number of pilgrims per year; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

(a): The number of persons who took Amarnath pilgrimage during each of the last three years and the current year is as under:-

2009 3,92,653
2010 4,51,710
2011 6,35,611
2012 6,21,145

(b): The number of pilgrims who died in the course of the pilgrimage is as under:-

2009 45
2010 77
2011 106
2012 93

(c): Specific reason for the deaths are not maintained in the Ministry. However, it is ascertained that the reasons identified, related to high altitude ailments are :-

i) Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS)

ii) High Altitude Cerebral Oedema (HACO)

iii) High Altitude Pulmonary Oedema (HAPO)

(d): Government of J&K had established 15 medical camps along the route. These were supplemented by 32 medical camps set up by the Army, CRPF and BSF. A total of 33 medical ambulances were provided at the base camps and more than one thousand oxygen cylinders were kept on the yatra route. In addition to the above, 37 medical aid centres were set up along the national highway in J&K. A total of 98 Doctors were deputed. For yatrias developing serious medical complications, arrangements were made to evacuate them by helicopters/dandies to base camps for onward transfer to Medical College Hospital in Srinagar for specialized treatment.

(e) to (f): In 1996, Nitish K. Sengupta Committee Report had recommended a figure of 10,000 yatrias to be permitted along Chandanwari-Holy cave route, in the content of the assessment in 1996 i.e. available track capacity along the traditional route i.e. Chandanwari-Holy cave. For Yatra 2012, the Shrine Board had approved 7500 pilgrims per day per route plus about 1400-1600 per day who travel by helicopter services.