

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2091
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012
HAJ FLIGHTS
Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the arrangements made/proposed to be made for Haj flights;
- (b) whether the Government has received any complaints of difficulties and harassment of the Haj pilgrims;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there are demands and requests for abolition of subsidy on airfare and freedom for global tenders; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a): Air travel arrangements by charter flights have been made for 1,25,000 pilgrims going on Haj through Haj Committee of India. The Haj Charter flights would be operated from 21 airports in India to Jeddah/Madina in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Air India and Saudi Arabian Airlines have been selected through tendering process to operate the charter flights.

(b) and (c) : A few complaints like non receipt of baggage, delay in operation of flights, delay in providing refreshment/hotel accommodation etc. were received for Haj flights during previous years.

(d) and (e): Gradual reduction/abolition of subsidy on air travel of Haj pilgrims is under consideration of the Government. In order to reduce cost of air travel, the airlines are being selected through tendering process and the fare charged from pilgrims is also being increased gradually.