

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4569
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2012
HAJ APPLICATIONS RPO-WISE
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the Regional Passport Office (RPO)-wise number of applications received for haj during current year;
- (b) whether all the applications have been processed and passports issued to the concerned applicants;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, RPO-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any complaints have been received by Government regarding delay in issuing passports to the concerned applicants;
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) Beginning 2012, the Haj Committee of India has made it mandatory to provide a copy of valid passport along with the application from prospective Haj applicants. Thus in 2012, 3,07,000 applications for Haj with valid passports were submitted before the Haj authorities by the 25th April 2012 against the allocated quota of 1,25,000 pilgrims. As normal passports are issued to those applying for Haj, no separate data is maintained for passports issued to Haj pilgrims. All the applications received from concerned applicants were processed and passports issued by the prescribed deadline. In those cases where police verification reports were not received in time, Haj applicants were issued Short Validity Passports valid for travel to Saudi Arabia only on the basis of an affidavit submitted by the applicant.

(f) As possession of a valid passport has been made mandatory before submission of Haj applications, all Passport Offices are being advised to raise public awareness about the revised procedures so that those intending to go on Haj pilgrimage may apply well in time in order to get a passport to enable them to apply for Haj 2013. In addition, Passport Offices are also advised to appoint Nodal Officers and open facilitation counters to help prospective Haj applicants.