

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4446
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2012
HAJ SUBSIDY
Barq Shri Shafiqur Rahman

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has substantially increased Haj expenses on Haj pilgrims;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to curtail this expenditure;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The expenditure of the Government towards subsidising air transport costs and on provision of facilities for the pilgrims have increased and have been as follows:

Year No. of Expenditure on Haj Expenditure on Haj
Haj subsidy administered incurred by Ministry of
pilgrims by Civil Aviation External Affairs
(Rs. in Crores) (Rs. in Crores)

2010	1,71,671	600	27.04
2011	1,70,362	685	33.16

This is on account of inflation and increase in airfares.

(c) to (e) Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its interim order dated May 08, 2012 has directed the Government to progressively phase out the Haj subsidy in such a way so as to completely eliminate it within a period of 10 years from now.