

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3108
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2012
PRIVATE TOUR OPERATORS FOR HAJ
Bhujbal Shri Sameer

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of pilgrims who performed haj during the current year under Government quota and private tour operators quota, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has denied private tour operators in Maharashtra their quota and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the same logic was applied in accepting/denying such quota for other States and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the stand of the Government in regard to allocating quota to private tour operators in future?

Answer

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

(a) 1,25,064 pilgrims performed Hajj through Hajj Committee of India (HCOI) and 47,980 through Private Tour Operators (PTOs) during Hajj-2012. State-wise details are attached at Annexure I & II. As per the interim order dated July 23, 2012 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the discretionary Hajj quota of the Government was fixed at 500 seats.

(b) & (c) No. The 2012 Hajj PTO Policy was formulated taking into account the cumulative experience of all stake holders including the PTOs. Hajj seats were allocated to the qualified PTOs in accordance with the Hajj PTO 2012 policy. The Policy and the allocation of seats to PTOs as per the Policy were approved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(d) As per latest directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the draft PTO Policy for Hajj-2013 is to be submitted in the Court shortly.