

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2825
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012
DEATHS DURING AMARNATH YATRA
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.;Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are reports that some vehicles carrying Amarnath pilgrims met with accidents;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported along with the number of persons died and injured in such accidents during the current year;
- (c) the details of compensation paid/ being paid to the victims; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to make the pilgrimage safe and comfortable?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIR. P. N. SINGH)

- (a) & (b): Yes Madam, 04 accidents were reported involving vehicles carrying Amarnath pilgrims during the current year. In these accidents, 35 pilgrims/ sewadars/ others lost their lives while 27 got injured.
- (c): Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) has been providing insurance cover, free of cost, to the Yatris since 2010. This group insurance provides for payment of Rs. 1.00 lakh to every registered Yatri if he / she dies in an accident (natural or manmade) from the date of his/ her entry into the J&K State and upto his/ her exit during the Yatra period.
- (d): SASB and the State Govt. issued advisories that the yatra is in difficult terrain and only those who are medically fit should undertake the yatra. Adequate medical aid centres were set up along the yatra route and arrangements were made to evacuate yatris having serious medical complications. Telephone services were provided on the entire yatra route as well as provision of helicopter services. Both the Shrine board and State Govt. took all possible measure to make the yatra safe and comfortable for the pilgrims.