

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3209
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2012
HAJ SUBSIDY
Patle Kamla Devi ;Ramasubbu Shri S.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Union Government to gradually abolish Haj subsidy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court has also directed the Government to use the money for the benefit of the community;and
- (d) if so, the action contemplated by the Government in this regard?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) : Yes, Madam.

(b), (c) and (d): The Hon`ble Supreme Court vide its interim order dated 8.5.2012 has directed the Central Government to progressively reduce the amount of Haj subsidy so as to completely eliminate it within a period of 10 years from that day.The Hon`ble Court has also said that the subsidy money may be more profitably used for upliftment of the community in education and other indices of social development. The Government is conscious of the rising subsidy cost and is taking measures to reduce the same.Pilgrims contribution to the Haj air fare is being progressively increased.