

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:378
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2012
HAJ QUOTA
Bhujbal Shri Sameer

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the norms/criteria adopted by the Government to distribute Haj Quota among the States;
- (b) the details of Haj Quota allocated to the private tour operators for Haj-2012, State-wise and the basis on which Haj Quota is distributed to tour operators throughout the country;
- (c) whether MPs have been demanding an increase in their present quota from the existing two to ten and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to request Saudi Arabia authorities for increasing the Haj Quota as per the latest census figures; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a)to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 378 REGARDING 'HAJ QUOTA' FOR ANSWER ON 19.12.2012

(a) Allocation of Hajj seats to each State/Union Territory is done by the Hajj Committee of India (HCOI) in proportion to the Muslim population in each State/Union Territory vis a vis the national population of Muslims as per 2001 Census.

(b) As per bilateral Hajj Agreement between Governments of India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the quota allocated to India for Hajj-2012 was 1,70,000 with 1,25,000 through the Hajj Committee of India (HCOI) and 45,000 through Private Tour Operators (PTOs). Hajj Quota to PTOs is not allocated State-wise.

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 PTOs qualified under the Hajj PTO 2012 policy. The PTO 2012 Policy and the allocation of seats to PTOs qualified under the Policy were also approved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(c) No Hajj seat quota has been fixed specifically for Hon'ble Members of Parliament. However, they can make recommendations to dignitaries who have been accorded specific quota in the interim Order dated July 23, 2012 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The interim Order provides for the discretionary quota of 500 hajj seats - 200 for the Hajj Committee of India (HCOI) and 300 for the recommendations of dignitaries limited to the following:

Hon'ble President of India 100 seats

Hon'ble Vice-President 75 seats

Hon'ble Prime Minister 75 seats

Hon'ble External Affairs Minister 50 seats

(d) Latest census figures are not yet available.

(e) Does not arise.