

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:677

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013

HAJ QUOTA

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Patil Shri C. R. ;Sardinha Shri Francisco

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Saudi Arabia has slashed the Haj quota by 20 percent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any measures to ensure that no further cut in Haj quota takes place; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes.

(b) The Embassy of Saudi Arabia, New Delhi informed the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on June 05, 2013 that the Saudi authorities had imposed a 50% reduction in the Hajj 2013 quota on local (Saudi) applicants and 20% reduction on all foreign Hajj pilgrims to facilitate the infra-structure work being carried out around the uHaram Sharif and to keep the area safe and secure for the pilgrims.

(c) & (d) MEA took up the matter with the authorities in Saudi Arabia and conveyed its concern on the 20% reduction in our quota and sought reconsideration of the decision. On June 21, 2013, Government of Saudi Arabia affirmed the revised quota of 136,020 fixed for the Indian Hajj pilgrims for Hajj-2013.