

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3457

ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014

KAILASH MANSAROVAR YATRA

Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Ganeshamurthi Shri A.

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

- (a) whether the Government has announced the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2014 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the total number of pilgrims who have undertaken the Yatra during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether the main route of the pilgrimage was badly affected during the flash floods last year and if so, the current status of the repair works being undertaken;
- (d) whether the Government has identified/explored alternative routes for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra this year, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the same; and
- (e) the measures taken/being taken by the Government for the smooth conduct of the Yatra this year?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, the Ministry of External Affairs has already announced the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra-2014, which would be organized from 8 June to 9 September 2014 in 18 batches, each batch comprising a maximum of 60 Yatris. The last date to file online application is 5 March 2014 and the deadline to submit printout of online application or paper application is 10 March 2014.

(b) The year-wise details of pilgrims of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra, organized by the Ministry of External Affairs during the last three years, are as follows:

YEAR	NUMBER OF PILGRIMS
2011	761 (16 batches)
2012	774 (16 batches)
2013	53 (1 batch only due to cancellation of Yatra)

(c) Yes, the main route of the Yatra on the Indian side was badly affected last year, which forced the Yatra-2013 to be cancelled after the first batch. According to the authorities in Uttarakhand, the Yatra-2014 can go ahead as per schedule.

(d) The Government of India has been discussing with the Government of China the issue of opening additional routes to Kailash-Manasarovar. The Chinese side has been citing difficulty in opening alternate routes on the ground that it would involve travel over longer distances on their side through difficult terrain, with poor road conditions and lack of proper infrastructure for accommodation and communication.

(e) The Government of India has made effective arrangements for logistics and safety and security of the pilgrims. Ministry of External Affairs would appoint one Liaison Officer for each batch who would be responsible for the safety and well-being of pilgrims of his/her batch. The Liaison Officer would be provided with a satellite phone to stay in touch with Indian authorities concerned and to seek assistance in case of any emergency. A provision of air-evacuation of pilgrims by helicopter would also be made for medical emergency. The ITBP and the Uttarakhand State Government would provide security cover and basic medical assistance to pilgrims on the Indian side.