

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2052  
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009  
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PILGRIMS  
Singh Shri Pashupati Nath

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

- (a) the amount spent by the Government on Haj Pilgrims during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to extend the said facility to the followers of other religions too who go abroad on pilgrimage;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) The amount spent by the Government on Haj Pilgrims who traveled through Haj Committee of India on air fare subsidy, which is administered by Ministry of Civil Aviation, during each of the last three years is given below:

Haj Year Total subsidy for Haj Pilgrims

(Rs.Crore-provisional)

2006-II 367.00

2007 390.00

2008 826.00

(b) to (d) No, the Government is striving to reduce such expenditure. Recently, Government has taken a decision to increase the air fare chargeable from Haj Pilgrim going through Haj Committee of India from Rs.12000 to Rs.16000.