

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3145
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009
CRITERIA FOR PRIVATE HAJ TOUR OPERATORS
Ramasubbu Shri S.;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria laid down for allocating Haj Quota among Private Tour Operators (PTOs);
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the reports of inequitable distribution of Haj Quota and as a result thereof new PTOs could not qualify; (
- (c) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to change the rules for Haj Quota so as to make it equitable and transparent; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) The distribution of PTOs quota for Haj-2009 was done as per the following policy:

1. All the old PTOs who got quota in 2008 and had been found eligible for allocation of quota this year also, have been allocated quota of minimum 50 seats provided their quota allocation during 2008 was 50 seats or more.
2. Those PTOs who have been applying unsuccessfully for at least the last two years have been allotted quota of 50 seats, provided they were otherwise eligible.
3. The PTOs who had applied since last one year only i.e. in Haj-2008 and those fresh applicants who have applied this year could not be considered for allocation of quota for Haj-2009.

(b) to (d) Haj Quota was allocated to Private Tour Operators(PTOs) in more rational, equitable and transparent manner. The policy in this regard has been given wide publicity through website.