

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3228
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009
HAJ REFORMS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has appointed a Committee namely, Rehman Khan Committee to report on Haj reforms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said Committee has given its reports to the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations of the Committee;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether the Government proposes to amend the Haj Act; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Shri K.Rehman Khan, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha has submitted a report towards the need to reform the system of management of Haj pilgrimage on the lines of "Tabung Haji" of Malaysia, proposing that members of the Muslim community in India mobilize their personal savings for performing Haj with a view to gradually ending the provision of subsidy for Haj pilgrims by the government.

(c) to (f) The above proposal on Haj management reforms was discussed by the Govt and subsequently a committee has been set up to examine the recommendations of Shri K. Rehman Khan and related Haj management reforms and prepare an appropriate model for implementation. The objective of this exercise is to aim towards gradually eliminating the subsidy provision, empowering the Haj Committee of India including their handling the air charter operations, regulating the private tour operators and streamlining the accommodation at Makkah and Madinah in a transparent manner. The report of the Committee is awaited.

(g) & (h) The amendment of the Haj Act is not under consideration at present.