

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4004
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014
HAJ GOODWILL TEAM
Kothapalli Smt. Geetha

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to send a Haj Goodwill team to Saudi Arabia during the current year to improve the ties with that country; and

(b) if so, the details and the purpose thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) The Government sends Hajj Goodwill Delegation every year to oversee Hajj arrangements, to meet the Saudi Hajj authorities and promote goodwill between India and Saudi Arabia. From Hajj 2012, the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed the Government to reduce the delegation size to two only. Since then, a two-member Hajj Goodwill delegation has been visiting Saudi Arabia annually.

(b) The Hajj Goodwill delegation for Hajj 2014 is yet to be finalised.