

Title: Need to provide more facilities to the pilgrims of Amarnath Yatra.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST): Sir, I have received certain complaints and suggestions from the yatris who undertook Amarnath Yatra very recently. In this regard, I would like to give the following suggestions. The Government members will take care of them so that any untoward incident does not take place.

Children below 12 and elders above 60 years should not be allowed to perform such yatras. The yatris should be asked to get a fitness certificate from a Government approved doctor. The yatris should be given identity cards. Medical certificate and Registration should be properly checked both at Pahalgam and Bal Tal which is not being done at the moment. More registration counters should be set up by the Government all over the country. The Government should give them helping hand in setting up more number of counters for food etc. at short distances. The Government should not allow more than 25,000 yatris per day. In addition to this, the Government should provide adequate number of blankets, lanterns, beds, etc. Satellite phone should be made available at short distances. Oxygen cylinders should be made available at short distances. A separate route is required to be constructed of ponies. Till that is done, it is suggested that ponies should be allowed from 5.00 a.m. to 7.00 a.m. and from holy cave from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. only. During this period, no yatris should be allowed to trek. This must be made compulsory. At every kilometre stretch, legible milestones should be fixed properly.

The Government should explore the feasibility of setting up a Trust as they have done in the case of Vaishnodevi Shrine.

1500 hrs.