

>

Title: Problem being faced by the Haj pilgrims.

SHRI T.K. HAMZA (MANJERI): Sir, I would like to invite the urgent attention of the Government to the plight of Haj pilgrims across the country which calls for immediate redressal.

The first return flight from Jeddah reached Calicut after a delay of 27 hours. The second flight bettered this, being delayed by 30 hours. Compounding this, the baggage of more than 50 first batch pilgrims did not accompany them. Now, total confusion reigns with the cancellation of all return flights till the 19<sup>th</sup> of December. This experience is being replicated across the country.

The pilgrims also are enduring lack of food and other basic amenities for hours at Jeddah Airport. Because of passport irregularities of a few, an entire batch is detained. Instead, those waitlisted are accommodated, causing heartburn to those originally chosen.

We are dependent on foreign private charters because of lack of adequate support from our national carriers. Both Air India and Indian Airlines should give primacy to the demands of Haj pilgrims.

So, may I request the hon. Minister in-charge of Haj Pilgrimage for intervention in this matter? The Minister is only interested in the private operators. Therefore, the Government should take immediate action for rectifying this mistake.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Manoj and Shrimati Satheedevi are associating. Yes, your names are recorded. You have got similar notices.