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Title: Need to enhance the quota of Haj pilgrims from Tamil Nadu.

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SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (PERIYAKULAM): I bring the following facts to the notice of External Affairs Minister regarding Haj Pilgrims. In 2006, there were about 3815 persons with 12 infants from Tamil Nadu who were sent to Makka. Again in 2006, we have sent through Haj Committee 3703 persons with 11 infants. In 2007, more people are interested to go as Haj Pilgrims through Haj Committee because of the standard of accommodation and care provided by Haj Committee. But in 2007 our quota is only 3384, which is less than last year's quota and also less by 443 from 2006 figure. The Committee has given more quota to Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka and J & K. But, I don't know why Tamil Nadu has been left. As an MP from Tamil Nadu and Chairman, State Haj Committee, I have asked the BCMBC Secretary to give actual figure of Muslims living in Tamil Nadu. They say according to 2001 census it is 3417647. If it is so, then 2/3<sup>rd</sup> is adult population and 1/3<sup>rd</sup> is below 18 years. 2/3<sup>rd</sup> comes to 2278431 divided by 39 Parliamentary Constituencies, per constituency population is 58422. It shows a mistake in giving actual record. In my Periyakulam Constituency, records shows Muslim population was 34, 000, but State voters' list shows Muslims are 1,27,000.

I request the Government to go through census records of Tamil Nadu and raise the quota accordingly.

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\* Treated on laid on the Table