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Title: Regarding increasing the quota of Haj.

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): Hon. Chairman, Sir, the Tamil Nadu State Haj Committee has received 15,032 applications from pilgrims in Tamil Nadu for Haj 2015. The Haj Committee of India has allotted a quota of 2585 seats only to Tamil Nadu for this year. As per the guidelines for Haj 2015, out of the quota, 1699 pilgrims have been selected under the reserved category, while 886 seats have been utilized for the general category pilgrims. This leaves 12,000 disappointed applicants.

During earlier years, the Government of India had released additional seats over and above the quota which enabled a larger number of pilgrims from Tamil Nadu to perform Haj. A total of 3696 and 2858 pilgrims have performed the Haj during Haj 2013 and 2014 respectively.

Our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister in this regard. In conclusion, the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India should release additional quota for Tamil Nadu to enable more pilgrims to perform the Haj this year and necessary provisions should be made to increase the quota for Tamil Nadu in the coming years so that more pilgrims can perform Haj every year.