

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.4366
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2018**

REDUCTION IN AIRFARE FOR HAJ PILGRIMS

**4366. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:
SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR
SHRI ASHOK SHAKARRAO CHAVAN:
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:**

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) The number of pilgrims who undertook the Haj pilgrimage during each of the last three year;
- (b) The number of estimated pilgrims likely to be undertaking the Haj pilgrimage during the current year;
- (c) Whether the Government has decided for a significant reduction in airfare for those going on the Haj;
- (d) If so, the details thereof along with the aims and objectives thereto;
- (e) The estimated airfare amount likely to be reduced for Haj pilgrims; and
- (f) The names of the Airlines which will offer reduced airfare for Haj?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)**

- (a) and (b) The number of pilgrims who undertook the Haj pilgrimage during last three years and the expected number of pilgrims for Haj 2018 is as under:

Year	Pilgrims through Haj Committee of India	Pilgrims through Private Tour Operators
2015	99930	36000
2016	99961	36000
2017	124940	45000
2018 (expected)	128702	46323

(c) to (f) Air travel arrangements for the pilgrims going through Haj Committee of India (HCoI), a statutory organization under Ministry of Minority Affairs are made through the Ministry of Civil Aviation, which is the nodal Ministry in this regard. Air travel cost depends on the lowest price discovered for each embarkation point through competitive bidding in which several airlines of Saudi Arabia and India participate. As per the bilateral agreement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, bids were invited from the scheduled airlines of India and Saudi Arabia for Haj 2018 air charter operations from 20 Embarkation Points (EPs). Based on the L1 rates, Air India (07 EPs), Saudi Airlines (07 EPs) and Flynas (06 EPs) have been selected to operate for air transportation of pilgrims for Haj 2018. A comparison of the lowest airfare arrived through competitive bidding for Haj 2014 and Haj 2018 (excluding taxes, airport charges and applicable Haj subsidy) reveals that rates quoted by the airlines have substantially come down. The comparative list of lowest airfare quoted by airlines in US dollars for Haj 2014 and 2018 is in the annexure.

ANNEXUR REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (c) TO (F) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4366 FOR 21.03.2018 RAISED BY SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA AND OTHERS REGARDING REDUCTION IN AIRFARE FOR HAJ PILGRIMS

LOWEST AIRFARE QUOTED BY AIRLINES FOR HAJ 2014 AND HAJ 2018

Sr. No.	Embarkation point (EP)	2014 Lowest air fare (in US\$)	2018 Lowest air fare (in US\$)
1.	Srinagar	2635	1238
2.	Mangalore	1778	1000
3.	Gaya	1798	1200
4.	Goa	1491	990
5.	Nagpur	1322	834
6.	Bhopal	1496	1100
7.	Ranchi	1656	1300
8.	Mumbai	1028	695
9.	Aurangabad	1346	1020
10.	Jaipur	1224	930
11.	Hyderabad	1074	784
12.	Ahmedabad	1028	795
13.	Cochin	1129	924
14.	Lucknow	1157	967
15.	Kolkata	1249	1065
16.	Guwahati	1598	1420
17.	Chennai	1128	951
18.	Delhi	1028	867
19.	Bangalore	1128	970
20.	Varanasi	1247	1095

Note – Lowest airfare does not include applicable taxes, airport charges or air travel subsidy popularly known as Haj subsidy earlier given to airlines.