

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 05.08.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**PASSPORTS APPLIED BY HAJ PILGRIMS .**

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Shri Sabir Ali

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) the number of Haj pilgrims who applied for passports this year throughout the country, RPO-wise;
- (b) the number of passports issued, RPO-wise, till 15 June, 30 June and 10 July, 2010 respectively;
- (c) the number of applicants who were not issued passports till then;
- (d) the total number of passports issued to Haj pilgrims so far;
- (e) the number of passports not issued so far along with the reasons for the same; and
- (f) the steps taken to streamline the system and minimize the difficulties of the applicants?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) to (d) The Saudi Arabian Government in 2009 made it mandatory for every Haj pilgrim to possess international passport. Accordingly, this year Haj aspirants have applied for passport in the normal course before Haj quota was allotted by the Haj Committee. Those applicants who did not receive the passports have been submitting Haj Cover number along with Haj Committee recommendation letter to the Passport Offices, for priority issue of passports to them. Passports are being issued on priority to such Haj applicants. Many Passport Offices have already issued passports to most Haj applicants. In the remaining Passport Offices special drive is being undertaken to issue passports on priority to all Haj applicants.

(e) & (f) The Haj Committee had identified that certain Passport Offices need special measures to assist Haj applicants. Accordingly, at Passport Offices in Lucknow, Bareilly, Ghaziabad, Patna, Kolkata, Guwahati and Bhopal special Haj counters were opened to facilitate submission of applications. Ministry have issued instructions to Passport Offices to issue normal passports to all Haj applicants in a time bound manner by 31st July, 2010 where recommendatory police verification reports have been received; and issue short validity Haj passport in the remaining cases from 1st August to 13th August 2010. The Ministry is closely monitoring the progress of issue of passports to the Haj applicants to ensure that all such passports are issued within the deadline set by the Ministry.