

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 09.11.2010
ANSWERED ON
ARRANGEMENT FOR HAJ PILGRIMS .

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Shri Sabir Ali

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :-

- (a) the details of arrangements made this year for carrying Haj pilgrims from India to Saudi Arabia and vice versa;
- (b) to what extent this year's arrangement is an improvement over the last year's arrangement; and
- (c) the details of difficulties being faced by Haj pilgrims and the steps taken or to be taken to solve them?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a): The Government has signed 'Memorandum of Understanding', detailing the number of pilgrims to be carried, the fare to be paid, the facilities to be provided to the pilgrims etc., with Saudi Arabian Airlines, NAS and Al-Wafeer Air for carrying balotee Haj pilgrims from 21 embarkation points in India after following the tender process.

(b): Two new embarkation points namely Bhopal & Goa have been introduced for the convenience of Haj pilgrims & their relatives. Most of the pilgrims have been carried directly from their embarkation point to Jeddah/Medina, except Srinagar and Patna pilgrims, who have been carried via Delhi due to airport limitations. A detail clause has been inserted to the MOU detailing the facilities to be provided to the pilgrims in the event of delay.

(c): State Haj Committee of Jammu and Kashmir had requested for direct flights from Srinagar to Jeddah/Medina and back. This request could not be accepted due to airport limitations. Apart from this, few complaints about quality of food being provided by airlines were also received and the airlines have been sensitized and advised to take remedial measures.