

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2387
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2016**

Subsidies given to Haj pilgrims

2387. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the facilities and subsidies being given to Haj pilgrims by Government; and
- (b) whether Government proposes to provide similar facilities to Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims like the Haj pilgrims, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF
MINORITY AFFAIRS**

(SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)

- (a) Government of India takes a number of measures for the welfare of the Indian Haj pilgrims both in India and in Saudi Arabia. The Indian Haj pilgrims are provided all basic facilities and services for their smooth, safe and comfortable Haj experience. Haj Committee of India (HCOI) is empowered to make arrangements for the pilgrims only in India under present norms and it includes inviting applications, making selection of pilgrims for Haj, Haj Visa, accommodation and transport in Makkah and Madinah, Group Insurance, vaccination, stainless steel Bracelets/ tri-colour identity cards for identification of the pilgrims in close coordination with State/ Union Territory Haj Committees. It also facilitates their passport, foreign exchange in Saudi Riyals and conduct orientation/ training programmes. Ministry of Civil Aviation supervises the Air Charter operations during Haj period and deploys officials in Saudi Arabia to assist in embarkation and disembarkation of pilgrims in 21 Embarkation points across India. Consulate General of India, Jeddah, has the responsibility to look after the pilgrims and to redress their grievances on reaching Jeddah /Madinah Munawwarah airport and while they are in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Government of India deputes administrative and medical staff during Haj Season in the form of Haj Assistant/ Assistant Haj Officer / Doctor/ para-medical staff for providing

round-the-clock facilities to Haj pilgrims in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Consulate General of India also provides various medical facilities to the Indian Haj pilgrims. Temporary Haj Medical Mission offices are opened during Haj season for the purpose.

The Government of India does not extend any direct subsidy to individual pilgrims for Haj. However, Government of India provides certain amount of subsidy to the Airlines ferrying the Haj pilgrims, which is the difference between the airfare fixed through tender and uniform fare paid by the pilgrims to the Haj Committee of India. During the year 2015, an amount of Rs. 529.51 crore was given as subsidy on account of air travel of Haj pilgrims going through Haj Committee of India. During the year 2016, the budget provision for subsidy on this account is Rs. 450 crore.

(b) As far as Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims is concerned, the Government of India arranges, on self payment basis, facilities like transportation, accommodation, food, medical tests, guides, Chinese visa, foreign exchange, and porters and ponies for carrying goods and belongings. The Ministry of External Affairs also extends financial assistance from time to time, to the Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam for improvement of facilities on the Lipulekh route, and the Indo Tibetan Border Police for facilitating medical checks and other facilities. The Government of India does not extend any direct subsidy to individual pilgrims of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.
