

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 265
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2018**

REDUCTION IN AIRFARES FOR HAJ PILGRIMS

***265. SHRI A.VIJAYAKUMAR:**

Will the Minister of **MINORITY AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that air travel cost for Haj pilgrims has been reduced by Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to allow Haj pilgrims to avail private airlines on Government quota; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.265 FOR 20.03.2018 RAISED BY SHRI A. VIJAYA
KUMAR REGARDING REDUCTION IN AIRFARE FOR HAJ PILGRIMS**

(a) to (d) 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.

The pilgrims of HCoI travel through Haj charter flights, which are selected from the scheduled airlines of India and Saudi Arabia through competitive bidding process. For Haj 2018 air charter operations, Air India, Saudi Airlines and Flynas of Saudi Arabia has been selected to carry the pilgrims.

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 265 FOR 20.03.2018 RAISED BY SHRI A.VIJAYAKUMAR 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.