

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *149
ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

REDUCTION OF HAJ QUOTA

*149. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has cut the quota of Haj pilgrims going through the Haj Committee of India for Haj 2025 by 10 per cent and transferred it to private tour operators, due to which approximately 17,500 fewer pilgrims will be able to travel through the Haj Committee quota;
- (b) the current waiting list for Haj pilgrimage under the Haj Committee of India quota;
- (c) the number of pilgrims, private tour operators are allowed to take for Haj pilgrimage ; and
- (d) whether reducing Haj quota through the Haj Committee and transferring it to private tour operators will cause fewer opportunities to Haj pilgrims from the poor section?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *149 ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024 ASKED BY SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN REGARDING “REDUCTION OF HAJ QUOTA”

(a): The allotment of Haj quota and Haj Group Organisers (HGO) related terms and conditions are governed by a bilateral agreement which is signed between India and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) factoring many ground realities into account. The Haj quota of India for Haj-2025 is fixed by KSA at 1,75,025 pilgrims and has been distributed between Haj Committee of India (HCoI) and HGOs. In the last 5 years, the quota distribution between HCoI & HGOs has varied between 70:30 and 80:20. For the year 2025, the quota has been distributed within the same range between HCoI and HGOs, in the ratio of 70:30, which has been communicated vide the Haj Policy-2025 issued on 05th August, 2024. Hence, the distribution of quota between HCoI and HGOs for Haj-2025 does not depart from the available precedence.

(b): The list of waitlisted haj pilgrims is available on the website of Haj Committee of India (<https://www.hajcommittee.gov.in/>).

(c): For Haj 2025, the quota of Haj pilgrims allotted to HGOs is 30% of India's total of 1,75,025, i.e., 52,507.

(d): Government of India, recognising the significance of Haj, has made provisions to facilitate the pilgrimage, particularly for low-income individuals, through HCoI which provides for a once in a lifetime pilgrimage and makes the necessary arrangements for the Indian pilgrims on a cost basis. Various measures have been taken to economise the cost of the Haj pilgrimage in recent years through HCoI including a transparent bidding process for Air Charter flights leading to better price discovery, removal of various non-essential components from the cost charged to pilgrims, and liberalising Forex provisions for the pilgrims and facilitating easy availability through D-SIB (Domestic-Systemically Important Banks) at competitive rates.

Over the years, India has received the third largest Haj quota among all the countries. Indian Haj pilgrims may perform Haj either through HCoI or through HGOs. In the last 5 years, the quota distribution between HCoI & HGOs has varied between 70:30 and 80:20 and provides ample opportunity and flexibility to the aspiring pilgrims duly considering duration, pricing and various other relevant factors regarding the pilgrimage. During Haj-2025, HCoI will cater to 1,22,518 Haj pilgrims partaking in the profoundly spiritual journey of Haj.
