

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1550
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

DEATH DATA DURING HAJ PILGRIMAGE

1550. SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the data related to deaths of Indian pilgrims caused by heatwaves during the Haj pilgrimage;
- (b) the data on deaths caused during the pilgrimage, State-wise; and
- (c) the measures taken by Government to provide compensation to the families of victims?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): During Haj 2024, there were 7 (seven) death cases, the cause of which can be directly attributed to heat stroke. However, in most of the cases, the cause of death is Cardio Pulmonary/ Respiratory arrest, due to the extreme heatwave conditions during Haj-2024, particularly during the core Haj period, where pilgrims have to walk in the open sun to complete religious rituals.

(b): Total number of death cases of Indian Haj pilgrims reported during Haj 2024 in Saudi Arabia are 208. State wise data is attached as Annexure-I.

(c) : In line with the Government of India's commitment towards the welfare of the Indian Haj pilgrims, the Haj Suvidha App was launched by the Ministry during Haj-2024 with the objective of providing the pilgrims necessary information related to the Haj pilgrimage and efficient grievance redressal mechanisms, and there was a significant improvement in the handling of grievances and emergencies during Haj-2024, with more than 2000 SOS requests being handled through the Haj Suvidha App. During the training and orientation of the pilgrims, as well as during the Haj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, it was emphasised that pilgrims stay hydrated in view of the harsh climatic conditions of Saudi Arabia, and to this effect, sufficient quantity of ORS was also made available by the Government of India.

While there is a provision for insurance of Haj pilgrims proceeding through Haj Committee of India, insurance is paid only for accidental death cases and is not paid in cases which are treated as death due to natural causes.

ANNEXURE-I

S.No.	Name of State / UT	No. of Death Cases
1	Andhra Pradesh	1
2	Assam	7
3	Bihar	8
4	Delhi	3
5	Gujarat	14
6	Haryana	6
7	Jammu & Kashmir	13
8	Jharkhand	2
9	Karnataka	9
10	Kerala	42
11	Ladakh	1
12	Madhya Pradesh	10
13	Maharashtra	28
14	Manipur	1
15	Odisha	3
16	Rajasthan	5
17	Tamil Nadu	22
18	Telangana	8
19	Uttar Pradesh	20
20	West Bengal	5
Total		208