

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.753
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

HAJ PILGRIMAGE THROUGH THE HAJ COMMITTEE

753. SHRI HARIS BEERAN:

Will the Minister of Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Indians who have performed Haj pilgrimage through the Haj Committee of India during the last three years;
- (b) whether Government is aware about the total number of Indians who died during Haj pilgrimage this year in Saudi Arabia, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has ascertained the causes for these deaths; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the requisite assistance extended in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a): Total number of Haj Pilgrims proceeded during the last three years from Haj Committee of India are as under:

YEAR	Total Pilgrims Proceeded
2022	56634
2023	139429
2024	139964

(b): Total number of death cases of Indian Haj pilgrims reported during Haj 2024 in Saudi Arabia are 208. The details are as follows:

Gender	Haj Pilgrims		Total
	Haj Committee of India	Haj Group Organisers	
Male	99	29	128
Female	66	14	80
Total Deaths	165	43	208

(c): As informed by the Saudi Authorities, in most of the cases the cause of death is Cardio Pulmonary/ Respiratory arrest, heat stroke and septic shock, due to the extreme heatwave conditions, particularly during the core Haj period, where pilgrims have to walk in the open dessert to complete the religious rituals.

(d) : The necessary support with respect to treatment of Haj pilgrims was provided by the Government of India in the Saudi Arabia through the Indian Haj mission, and in accordance with Saudi law for tertiary care. All serious issues were referred to the Saudi hospitals for treatment.

Government of India is committed to the welfare and wellbeing of the Indian pilgrims and establishes several temporary healthcare facilities in Saudi Arabia during the Haj period so as to ensure good quality healthcare services to the Indian pilgrims.

During Haj-2024, 3 medical centres and 16 medical dispensaries were operationalised at Makkah, 01 medical centre and 02 dispensaries were operationalized at Madinah and 01 medical dispensary was setup at Jeddah Haj Airport besides a command centre and 24*7 medical helpline at these 3 places. Ambulances with basic life support were also made available to attend to emergencies. Basic facilities and mobile teams were operationalised and deployed during the core Haj period in the Mashaer area where Saudi Arabia permits very limited access to the Haj mission of various countries.

A total of 158 doctors and 188 paramedical staff were temporarily deputed to Saudi Arabia by the Government of India to staff the temporary healthcare facilities setup by Government of India for Indian Haj pilgrims in Saudi Arabia.

The procedure for handling mortal remains is clearly defined by the Saudi Authorities. The Indian Haj Mission coordinates with local authorities for expeditious handling of the mortal remains for facilitating local burial on the basis of 'No Objection' received from families of the deceased. Death certificates are issued subsequently by the Consulate General of India, Jeddah following due procedure.
