

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2161
ANSWERED ON 06/08/2026

SAFETY OF PILGRIMS DURING KAILASH MANSAROVAR YATRA

2161 SHR. BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of reports of Indian pilgrims being stranded in Nepal during the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra due to documentation and permit-related issues and, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of Indian pilgrims who undertook the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra during the last five years, year-wise;
- (c) the number of pilgrims who faced travel disruptions and received assistance from Indian Missions abroad; and
- (d) the steps taken to strengthen coordination with Nepal ensuring safe, seamless and hassle-free pilgrimage in future?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d) This Ministry is in receipt of several requests for help and assistance from Indian citizens stuck in Nepal while undertaking Kailash Mansarovar Yatra without the required entry permit and visas for China, through tours organized by private tour operators. An advisory was issued to pilgrims by MEA on 27 June 2026, suggesting not to commence their journey from India until all required travel documents have been obtained for undertaking the yatra.

Travel of Indian nationals through Nepal is organized by private tour operators, and the Ministry of External Affairs does not have authoritative information on the number of Indian pilgrims undertaking the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra through Nepal.

MEA organized Kailash Manasarovar Yatra had not taken place between 2020 and 2024 following the COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent non-renewal of Yatra arrangements by the Chinese side. Government took up the issue of resumption of Kailash Manasarovar Yatra with Chinese authorities at various levels in its diplomatic engagements and the Yatra was finally resumed in 2025. In 2025, 688 pilgrims visited Kailash Manasarovar by participating in the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra organised by MEA.

In cases where some Indian nationals face certain challenges such as due to inclement weather, medical emergencies, or documentation/procedural issues in Nepal, then the Embassy of India in Kathmandu provides assistance to them in coordination with local authorities.

The Embassy of India in Kathmandu maintains effective coordination with Nepali authorities and other stakeholders to ensure the safety and well-being of Indian pilgrims. This includes activities such as timely evacuation, shelter, medical treatment and other support, to Indian nationals, wherever required.
