

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION No. 218  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.11.2016**

**Facilities to Haj Pilgrims**

**\*218. SHRI E AHAMED:**

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of facilities and services provided to Indian Haj Pilgrims;
- (b) whether such facilities and services are deficient as compared to those provided by other countries to their Haj Pilgrims and if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the corrective action being taken in the matter?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
(SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)**

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.218 FOR 30.11.2016 RAISED BY SHRI E. AHAMED  
REGARDING FACILITIES TO HAJ PILGRIMS**

(a) Government of India takes a number of measures for the welfare of the Indian Haj pilgrims both in India and in Saudi Arabia. The Indian Haj pilgrims are provided all basic facilities and services for their smooth, safe and comfortable Haj experience. Haj Committee of India (HCOI) is empowered to make arrangements for the pilgrims only in India under present norms. Haj Committee of India invites application from the intending Haj pilgrims, make selection of pilgrims for Haj and make arrangements for their Haj Visa, accommodation and transport in Makkah and Madinah, Group Insurance, vaccination, stainless steel Bracelets/ tri-colour identity cards for identification of the pilgrims in close coordination with State/ Union Territory Haj Committees. It also facilitates their passport, foreign exchange in Saudi Riyals and conduct orientation/ training programmes. Ministry of Civil Aviation supervises the Air Charter operations during Haj period and deploys officials in Saudi Arabia to assist in embarkation and disembarkation of pilgrims through 21 Embarkation points across India. Consulate General of India, Jeddah, has the responsibility to look after the pilgrims and to redress their grievances on reaching Jeddah /Madinah Munawwarah airport and while they are in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Government of India deposes administrative and medical staff during Haj Season in the form of Haj Assistant/ Assistant Haj Officer / Doctor/ para-medical staff for providing round-the-clock facilities to Haj pilgrims in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Consulate General of India also provides various medical facilities to the Indian Haj pilgrims. Temporary Haj Medical Mission offices are opened during Haj season for the purpose.

(b) and (c) No comparison of facilities and services provided to Indian Haj pilgrims can be made with other countries as the total number of pilgrims visiting Saudi Arabia from different countries and their socio-economic and cultural background varies from country to country. However, quality, facilities and services are provided to Indian Haj pilgrims commensurate with the charges paid by the Hajis and they conform to the rules and regulations of Saudi Government. It has been the constant endeavour of the Government and the Haj Committee of India to keep making improvements in the arrangements for the Haj pilgrims and provide them with better facilities and services.

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