

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION No. 85  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2017**

**Haj Expenses**

**\*85. SHRI SULTAN AHMED:**

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether measures are being taken by the Government to reduce the Haj expenses to meet the gradual subsidy downsizing as directed by the Supreme Court and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Union Government has formulated guidelines for making accommodation and transport tender more competitive and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Indian Hajis are paying more as compared to other countries for accommodation and transport, having same type of facilities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps being taken by the Government in this regard including providing adequate facilities and transparent system of arranging accommodation for Haj pilgrims?

**ANSWER**

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

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.85 FOR 08.02.2017 RAISED BY SHRI SULTAN  
AHMED REGARDING HAJ EXPENSES**

- (a) Haj expenses are incurred on air travel of pilgrims to Saudi Arabia, their accommodation and travel in Makkah and Madinah and other miscellaneous expenditure incidental to the Haj pilgrimage. The Government of India does not extend any direct subsidy to individual pilgrims for Haj. However, it provides certain amount of subsidy to the Airlines ferrying the Haj pilgrims, which is the difference between the airfare fixed through tender and uniform fare paid by the pilgrims to the Haj Committee of India (HCoI). With the gradual reduction of subsidy, only airfare for the Haj pilgrimage may increase and it will not affect any other expenses, which is borne by the pilgrims on actual basis. Indian Haj pilgrims are provided quality facilities and services commensurate with the charges paid by them in conformity with 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.
- (b) Accommodation and transportation of Indian Pilgrims in Saudi Arabia are arranged by the HCoI in association with the Consulate General of India (CGI), Jeddah. The general procedure and norms of Government of India are followed by CGI, Jeddah for hiring of accommodation in Makkah and Madinah. For accommodation in Makkah, advertisements inviting offers from willing landlords, lessors etc. are published in leading newspapers of Saudi Arabia as well as Consulate General of India's website. Applications for building are invited online. To ensure that hired buildings in Makkah conform to standards, Building Selection Team (BST) comprising of State/ Central Government/ CGI officials and Building Selection Committee (BSC) comprising of members of HCoI/ CGI visit, inspect and approve the accommodation, before hiring. Accommodation in Madinah is hired from licensed Building Rental Groups by inviting the interested parties through advertisement in the leading newspapers of Saudi Arabia as well as Consulate General of India's website, followed by a scrutiny of their applications/ documents and interview of the Groups by a Madinah Renting Delegation comprising of Members and officials of Haj Committee of India as well as Consulate General of India.

For transportation of pilgrims, tender applications are invited from Saudi-registered bus transportation companies through advertisements which are published in the leading newspapers in Saudi Arabia as well as Consulate General of India's website. Due procedure as per rules & regulations of Government of India is followed for selection of the company.

(c) and (d) No Madam. A cost-comparative analysis of Haj expenditure of the pilgrims of the countries sending largest number of pilgrims of Saudi Arabia is as under:

<b>Countries</b>	<b>Hajis Expenditure during Haj 2016 (approx)</b>
Indonesia	Rs. 2,10,000/- (excluding government subsidy of Rs 95,000)
Pakistan	Rs. 2,02,000/- (Rs. 1,75,000 Haj Package + 27,000 Personal Expenses) No Green Category
Bangladesh	Cat I - Rs 308,449 Cat II – Rs 260,454
India	Azizia – Rs 1,47,200 Haj Package + Rs 37,800 as Personal Expenses (Total - Rs 185,000/-) Green –Rs 1, 81,200 + Rs 37,800 as personal expenses (Total- Rs 219,000/-  (Approx. Rs 37,800/- (SR 2100) is returned to Hajis before their embarkation to Saudi Arabia)

(Source: enquires by CGI, Jeddah/HCol)

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