

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1672
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2017**

Haj Pilgrimage

1672. SHRI P. NAGARAJAN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- a) Whether the Union Government has requested the Ministry of Shipping to re-start sea route and to provide Akbar and Noorjahan ships to ferry Haj Pilgrimage;
- b) If so, the details thereof; and
- c) The response received from the Shipping Ministry in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Ministry of Minority Affairs is only exploring an idea on the possibilities for the revival of Haj Pilgrimage through ships as an additional option for the Indian Haj Pilgrims, with the Ministry of Shipping. Ministry of Shipping has informed that the ticketing charges will be less than airline charges if vessels with passenger capacity of 1100 are used. Further, other logistic arrangements including assembling of pilgrims and travelling time would also need to be considered. As advised by the M/o Shipping, the M/o External Affairs have been consulted. It is still on exploratory stage and nothing has been fixed up.
