

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3898
ANSWERED ON 19.03.2018**

FACILITIES TO TOURISTS AT RELIGIOUS SITES IN TIBET

3898. SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to facilitate tourists to the Hindu religious sites in Tibet; and**
- (b) the safety/security provided to pilgrims during such journeys?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)**

(a) and (b): Ministry of External Affairs organises the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra in Tibet in cooperation with the State Government of Uttarakhand, Delhi and Sikkim along with Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). In addition to the existing Yatra route via Lipulekh (Uttarakhand), an additional route via Nathu La Pass (Sikkim) was opened in 2015 for the benefit of Yatris. The Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam Limited (KMVN), and Sikkim Tourism Development Cooperation (STDC), make logistical arrangements including accommodations, food and transport on the Indian side for the Yatra. The Yatra is organised in cooperation with the Government of China which provides logistical facilities on the Tibet side.

Government of India takes various steps to facilitate the Yatra which include a dedicated website to further simplify and expedite the registration and selection process, communication with Yatris, and a helpline based on interactive Voice Response System which provides information in Hindi and English to the Yatris. Medical tests are also conducted for Yatris to ensure their fitness for high

altitude endurance. Provision for air-lift of Yatris by helicopter is also available in coordination with concerned agencies in case of emergency. Liaison Officers are appointed for each batch for coordination with Indian and Chinese authorities concerned, and seeks assistance in case of any emergency for the safety and well-being of Yatris. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) provides security cover and basic medical assistance to Yatris on the Indian side. Facilities are upgraded on a continuous basis along the entire route of the Yatra.

The Government of India arranges, on self-payment basis, facilities like transportation, accommodation, fresh food, medical tests, guides, Chinese visa, foreign exchange, porters and ponies for carrying goods and belongings of Yatris. The Government of India does not extend any direct cash subsidy to pilgrims of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra.
