

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4282
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2018

SUBSIDY TO PILGRIMS

†4282. SHRIMATI NEELAM SONKER:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any policy to provide subsidy to Hindu community for Amarnath and Kailash Parvat Yatra on the lines of Haj subsidy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) to (c) The Government of India does not extend any direct monetary subsidy to individual pilgrims for the Amarnath Yatra and the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra. However, Ministry of External Affairs provides assistance, on self-financing basis, to the Yatris undertaking the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra by providing facilities like transportation, accommodation, food, medical tests, guides, etc. The Ministry of External Affairs also coordinates with the Government of Peoples' Republic of China as well as various Indian agencies for the smooth conduct of this Yatra.

As per the Supreme Court judgment dated 08.05.2012 and recommendations of Haj Policy Review committee constituted by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, the Haj subsidy has been gradually reduced since the year 2013 and it has been decided to discontinue it from Haj 2018.
