

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2602
(To be answered on the 2nd August 2018)

HAJ FLIGHTS FROM CALICUT AIRPORT

2602. SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Haj flights were earlier operating from Calicut airport and that the same were suspended for some years in the recent past due to renovation of the said airport, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the renovation of the said airport has been completed and flights including Haj flight from that airport have still not been started; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which Haj flights would be operated from the airport?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a): Yes, Madam. The Haj operations were shifted from Calicut airport to Cochin due to the runway recarpeting work at Calicut airport in 2015.

(b) and (c): Runway recarpeting work at Calicut Airport was completed on 28.02.2017. However, Ministry of Minority Affairs had constituted a Haj Policy Review Committee (HPRC) to review the Haj policy of the Government for 2013-2017 and to suggest a framework for new policy for the next five years i.e. 2018-2022. The Committee has submitted its report and recommended reduction of 21 embarkation points to 09. However, for Haj 2018, Ministry of Minority Affairs, on the recommendation of Haj Committee of India has decided to retain 20 embarkation points by excluding Indore embarkation point. The list of 20 embarkation points does not include Calicut.

Further, in compliance of Hon'ble Supreme Court order, Haj subsidy has been phased out. As such, addition of any new embarkation point would further increase the cost. Therefore, it has been decided to retain 20 embarkation points, which were operational during the previous Haj.
