

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. \*70  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2021**

**Ferrying of Haj Pilgrims at Chennai Airport**

**\*70. SHRI T.R. BAALU:  
SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN:**

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for excluding Chennai Airport from the list of Airports for Haj Pilgrims this year, causing undue hardships to thousands of Haj travellers from Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andaman Islands and Southern Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the criteria for selecting the ferrying points for Haj Pilgrims;
- (c) whether the Union Government has received request from the State Government of Tamil Nadu to include Chennai Airport for ferrying Haj Pilgrims; and
- (d) if so, the decision of the Union Government in this regard?

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
(SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO REPLY TO PART (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NUMBER \*70 FOR 02.12.2021 RAISED BY SHRI T.R. BAALU AND SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN REGARDING FERRYING OF HAJ PILGRIMS OF CHENNAI AIRPORT**

(a) to (d) A Haj Review Meeting has been held by the Ministry on 22.10.2021 with the Ambassador of India to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Consul General of India, Jeddah, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and representatives of Airlines, so as to prepare the action plan for Haj 2022. The arrangements and guidelines for Haj 2022 have been made under special circumstances due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. The provisions and restrictions are aimed to address the issues that have arisen due to Covid 19 Pandemic, and includes reduction in the number of Embarkation Points (EPs) to 10 major airports, i.e (1) Ahmedabad (2) Bengaluru (3) Guwahati (4) Delhi (5) Hyderabad (6) Kochi (7) Kolkata (8) Lucknow (9) Mumbai and (10) Srinagar.

The Ministry has not received request from the State Government of Tamil Nadu to include Chennai Airport as an Embarkation Point. However, a reference has been received from Shri S.Venkatesan, MP, Lok Sabha, Madurai, Tamil Nadu on the issue and the same has been suitably replied to.

\*\*\*\*\*