

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.435
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.04.2022**

PILGRIMAGE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

†*435. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of pilgrims who visited various religious places located in foreign countries during each of the last three years, year and religious place-wise;
- (b) the details of the criteria adopted for selection of the said pilgrims, including the financial and other assistance related to transportation/catering/accommodation, etc. provided, religious place-wise;
- (c) whether effective steps have been taken to ensure proper arrangement for them and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the number of pilgrims likely to visit the said religious places in the coming years?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR]**

- (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the house.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) of the LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *435 REGARDING “PILGRIMAGE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES” FOR ANSWER ON 01.04.2022

Government is involved in the logistical facilitation and welfare of pilgrims proceeding on pilgrimage to foreign countries in coordination with the concerned foreign governments. These pilgrimages include the Haj, Kailash Mansarovar and places of religious worship in Pakistan. Government does not provide any direct financial assistance or monetary subsidy to pilgrims.

2. Due to the COVID pandemic, and consequent restrictions imposed by the concerned countries, pilgrimages for the Haj and Kailash Mansarovar could not take place in 2020 and 2021. Pilgrimages to religious places in Pakistan were, however, undertaken.

3. In the last three years, a total of 1,99,936 pilgrims went for a Haj in 2019; while no Haj pilgrimage took place in 2020 and 2021.

4. In the last three years, a total of 1,346 pilgrims undertook the Kailash Mansarovar yatra. The pilgrimage was not undertaken in 2020 and 2021.

5. In the last three years, a total of 4,186 pilgrims proceeded to places of religious worship in Pakistan in 2019; 1,330 in 2020; and 5,425 in 2021.

6. As per the agreement with the Government of Pakistan concluded on 24 October 2019 for the facilitation of pilgrims to visit Gurudwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, Pakistan, a total of 34,194 pilgrims visited Gurudwara Darbar Sahib site, Kartarpur in 2019; 28,315 in 2020; and 9,738 in 2021.

7. Government is in touch with concerned foreign governments to facilitate pilgrimages to religious sites once these are opened.

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