

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 256
ANSWERED ON 03.02.2022
HAJ EMBARKATION POINT

256. SHRI KUMBAKUDI SUDHAKARAN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has received a request from MP representing Kannur constituency and thereafter forwarded by the Minister of Civil Aviation, seeking to include Kannur International Airport (KIAL) as Haj Embarkation Point;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that the largest number of Muslim pilgrims in Kerala come from North Malabar region and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that pilgrims have to spend long hours travelling from North Kerala, Dakshin Kannada and Coorg to arrive at the only embarkation point in Kerala, Cochin and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that KIAL has all facilities to cater to large number of Haj Pilgrims and for operations of wide body aircrafts and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government is willing to include Kannur as a Haj Embarkation point and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)

- (a) & (b): Yes sir, a reference had been received by the Ministry of Civil Aviation on the matter raised by Shri Kumbakudi Sudhakaran, Member of Parliament under Rule 377 of Lok Sabha. An interim reply has been given by the Minister, Ministry of Civil Aviation stating that the request for inclusion of Kannur International Airport Limited (KIAL) as Embarkation Point(EPs) for Haj has been forwarded to Ministry of Minority Affairs for their consideration. This Ministry has also sent a reply to the member in the matter.
- (c) to (f): During Haj, 2019 total 1,39,987 pilgrims proceeded for Haj from 21 Embarkation Points in the country. Two EPs namely Calicut Airport and Cochin Airport in the State of Kerala facilitated the travel of 13,829 pilgrims of Kerala and nearby areas.

The issue of Embarkation Points for Haj, 2022 was considered by the Ministry with all Stakeholders and it was observed that the commercial operation of wide-body aircraft from Calicut Airport was suspended due to technical reasons. Further, taking cognizance of inputs of the stakeholders and also the current situation of COVID19 pandemic, it was decided that there would be 10 Embarkation Points namely Cochin, Delhi, Guwahati, Lucknow, Srinagar, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkatta and Mumbai, for Haj, 2022.