

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1620
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025

WITHDRAWAL OF EMBARKATION FACILITY AT GANNAVARAM AIRPORT

1620. SHRI P V MIDHUN REDDY:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the embarkation facility at Gannavaram Airport has been withdrawn forcing Haj pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh to travel to Hyderabad once again and if so, the reasons for this withdrawal; and
- (b) whether the Government is planning to reinstate Gannavaram Airport as an embarkation point for Haj pilgrims to facilitate easier access, if so, the timeline for the same and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): There were 19 Embarkation points (EP) for Haj 2025, however, 18 EP were operationalized for Haj 2025. Selection of Embarkation points is based on the demand from the pilgrims and feasibility of the operating international flights, corresponding air fares, etc. During Haj-2025, only 78 pilgrims opted for Vijayawada EP (Gannavaram Airport). Due to low pilgrim count and high airfare (double that of nearby embarkation points), it was operationally unviable to operate this Embarkation Point.

(b) The subject matter is under active consideration of the Competent Authority, based on inputs from relevant stakeholders in this matter.
