

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.586
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2016**

SUBSIDY FOR KAILASH MANASAROVAR PILGRIMS

† 586. **SHRI RAJU SHETTY:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government organizes Kailash Manasrovar Yatra every year;**
- (b) if so, the formalities in this regard including facilities provided to the pilgrims;**
- (c) the amount paid by each pilgrim in this regard;**
- (d) whether the Government of China has banned carrying of liquid and semi-liquid items by pilgrims with them;**
- (e) if so, the reasons therefore;**
- (f) whether the Government has taken up this issue with Government of China; and**
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government of China thereto?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]**

- (a) Yes.**
- (b) Indian nationals between the age of 18 and 70 years, who are medically fit for high altitude endurance are eligible to register online for this Yatra. Government of India takes various steps to facilitate the**

Yatra which include a dedicated website <http://kmy.gov.in> to further simplify and expedite the registration and selection process, and communication with Yatris. A helpline based on Interactive Voice Response System which provides information in Hindi and English to the Yatris, has also been set up. The Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam Limited (KMVN), and Sikkim Tourism Development Cooperation (STDC) make logistical arrangements including accommodation, food, and transport on the Indian side for the Yatra. The Chinese Government facilitates the stay and travel of the pilgrims in Tibet Autonomous Region during the Yatra. One Government of India official is appointed as Liaison Officer for each batch of Yatris. The Liaison Officer stays in touch with Indian and Chinese authorities concerned and seeks assistance in case of any emergency for the safety and well-being of Yatris. Provision for air-lift of Yatris by helicopter is also available in coordination with concerned agencies in case of emergency on the Indian side.

(c) The average cost per pilgrim for this Yatra is approximately Rs.1.6 lakhs via Lipulekh route, and Rs.2 lakhs via Nathu La route.

(d) The Government of India has not received any communication regarding blanket ban on liquid or semi-liquid items carried by pilgrims.

(e) to (g) Does not arise
