

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:156

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2000

PERMISSION TO UK BASED COMPANY TO TRANSPORT HAJ PILGRIMS

AVTAR SINGH BHADANA;CHANDRA NATH SINGH;PRABHUNATH SINGH;SHYAMA SINGH

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether a UK-based Company (Midos) has been permitted to fly 1970-Vintage aircraft to transport Haj Pilgrims to Saudi Arabia endangering the lives of the passengers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to ensure the safety of the pilgrims on the flight; and

(d) the reasons for awarding the contract to UK based company Midos without floating a global tender for carrying 77,000 Haj Pilgrims?

**Answer**

----- THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION  
(SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a), (b), (c) and (d) :- Haj charter contract was awarded to M/s. MIDO Aviation Group, UK through a global tender. Two aircraft are of 1970 manufacture, one of 1974, one of 1977, one of 1981 and one of 1984 vintage. The acceptance of these aircraft was subject to technical clearance by a technical team of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and Air India representatives. These aircraft were recommended for Haj operation as they met with the requisite airworthiness standards as stipulated by the DGCA. For carrying the Haj pilgrims for the year 2000, Air India had floated global tenders and M/s. MIDO Aviation Group were selected by the Haj Tender Committee consisting of the Chairman and members of the Central Haj Committee and representatives of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of External Affairs, DGCA and Air India.