

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:575
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
EXPENDITURE ON OFFICIALS
P.R. KHUTE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of total expenditure incurred on Indian Officials accompanying Haj pilgrims during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the steps taken to reduce this expenditure in view of financial crisis facing the country; and
- (c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard during the current Haj Pilgrimage?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a),(b) & (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a),(b)&(c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION D.Y.NO.575 SHRI P.R.KHUNTE,M.P., TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND November, 2000

The expenditure incurred on Indian Officials accompanying Haj Pilgrims during the last three years is as follows:-

Year Total Expenditure (in Rupees)

1997-98	5,70,57,587
1998-99	6,11,98,964
1999-2000	8,15,56,350

While every effort is made to effect economies, it may be noted that Over the last three years, the number of pilgrims performing Haj through the Haj Committee has increased from 63,000 to about 72,000 which has contributed to the increase in the number of officials accompanying Haj pilgrims. For Haj - 1998, Government had sent 398 officials to Saudi Arabia consisting of the medical mission and administrative staff. For Haj - 2000, based on an assessment of minimum requirements, Government reduced the number of officials accompanying Haj pilgrims to 384.

The total expenditure expected to be incurred on account of the officials accompanying Haj pilgrims for Haj - 2001 would be about Rs.7,80,49,750.