

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:318
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR KAILASH MANSAROVAR PILGRIMAGE
Deora Shri Milind Murl

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether security arrangements for the pilgrims of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra during the current year were made;
- (b) if so, the number of pilgrims who visited the shrine during the current year;
- (c) the number of batches formed this year for the smooth journey of the pilgrims; and
- (d) the organisations which co-ordinated with the Ministry for the said pilgrimage?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) Yes.

(b)-(c) As on July 21, 2006, 182 pilgrims in five batches have completed the Yatra this year, which commenced from June 1, 2006, while 160 pilgrims in four more batches are at different stages of the Yatra. A total of sixteen batches of pilgrims will undertake the Yatra this year.

(d) The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra is organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, in coordination with various State and Central Government agencies, including the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Uttaranchal Government and the Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN).