

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1085
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
HAJ PILGRIMAGE
Azmi Shri Ilyas

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the private tour operators who are allowed to operate the Haj pilgrimage in the country;
- (b) the names of tour operators whose quota has been increased for the current year ;
- (c) whether quota of Haj pilgrims has been increased;
- (d) if so, whether the quota of persons going on international passport has also been increased;
- (e) if so, the number of Haj pilgrims who are expected to undertake the pilgrimage during the current year, State-wise; and
- (f) the arrangements made for them?

Answer

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

- (a) A list containing names of the Private Tour Operators who are allowed to operate for Haj 2006-II is enclosed.
- (b) Quota to the repeat Private Tour Operators has been maintained at the level of last quota allotted to them. No quota has been increased for the Tour Operators for the current year i.e. Haj 2006-II.
- (c) Yes. Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has provided an additional quota of 10,000 for Indian Haj Pilgrims for Haj 2006-II only.
- (d) No.
- (e) A statement indicating original quota and number of pilgrims finally proceeded on Haj pilgrimage State-wise during Haj 2006 through the Haj Committee of India is enclosed as annexure.
- (f) The Government is making arrangements to facilitate the transportation to Saudi Arabia of the 110,000 pilgrims going through the Haj Committee of India and provision of accommodation and other logistical support for them. In addition to assistance to be provided by the Consulate General of India, Jeddah, the Government is deploying 506 India-based officers including Doctors, Paramedics, Assistant Haj Officers and Haj Assistants in addition to around 600 locally recruited employees to look after the welfare of the pilgrims. 11 branch dispensaries and one hospital will be set up at Makkah to provide round the clock medical assistance to the pilgrims during the Haj period. Similarly, five branch dispensaries-cum-Haj offices and one main dispensary will be set up at Madina. During this year medicines worth Rs. 1.25 crores are being provided for the pilgrims.