

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3311
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2006
ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS FOR HAJ PILGRIMAGE
Sippiparai Shri A. Ravichandran

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

-

- (a) Whether the Government has arranged the additional flights for the convenience of Haj pilgrimages during the current year ;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) The other facilities provided/ proposed to be provided by public/private airlines to the Haj pilgrimage for Haj operations 2006-II ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a),(b) and (c) : During the current year, Haj operations have been arranged through Air India, Indian Airlines and Saudi Arabia Airlines under the Haj Subsidy scheme. It has been decided to carry 1,10,000 pilgrims as against 1,00,000 pilgrims during the last year for which additional flights have been planned to carry out the operations. Some of the facilities provided to the Haj pilgrims are :

- (i) meal boxes and drinking water on departure from India and on arrival at Saudi Arabia ;
- (ii) at embarkation points where the pilgrims have to wait for long hours at the airport, bedding has been provided for the comfort of the pilgrims ;
- (iii) a Control Cell with a Coordinator has been set up at each embarkation point to monitor the Haj movement and to facilitate the movement of the pilgrims; and
- (iv) remote check-in has been arranged at several points to facilitate the movement of the pilgrims and to avoid congestion at the airports.