

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:143
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006
HAJ SUBSIDY
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had temporarily suspended Haj subsidy during 2005-06;
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of pilgrims to whom subsidy was given later on during 2005-06 and till date;
- (d) the amount of subsidy so given;
- (e) the number of Haj pilgrims who undertook the pilgrimage during the last 3 years and the subsidy borne by the Government, year-wise;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to extend similar subsidy to Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims and those pilgrims visiting other pilgrimage centres abroad;
- (g) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) No.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The number of pilgrims to whom subsidy was given during 2005-06 is as follows:

Year	No. of pilgrims to whom subsidy was given
------	---

Haj 2005	80772
Haj 2006 I	99660

- (d) The amount of subsidy given during 2005-06 is given below:

Year	#Subsidy (in crores)
------	----------------------

2005	185.81
2006 I	280.00

#figures are provisional

- (e) The number of Haj pilgrims who undertook the pilgrimage during the last 3 years and the subsidy borne by the Government, year-wise is given below:

Year,	No. of Haj pilgrims by the Government undertook (crores)#	Subsidy borne pilgrimage
-------	---	--------------------------

Haj 2004,	67162	, 160.70
-----------	-------	----------

Haj 2005, 80772, 185.81
Haj 2006 I, 99660, 280.00

figures are provisional

(f, g & h) Government pay Rs. 3,250/- (Rupees Three thousand two hundred and fifty) for each pilgrim to Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) for arrangements made by KMVN for the Yatra. In addition, during the course of the Yatra, facilities provided by the Government to the pilgrims include free medical assistance, security and escort cover by Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) till the Lipulekh Pass on the Indian side, communication links with China, and provision of satellite phone to the Liaison Officer for each batch of pilgrims for use during emergency throughout the Yatra. A Liaison Officer is attached by the Government with each batch of pilgrims who is responsible for the general welfare.

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and Haj are essentially different so far as number of pilgrims, mode of travel and the nature of terrain are involved. Therefore, there may not be a direct comparison between the two. There is no proposal to extend any subsidy to pilgrims going abroad.