

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:454
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004
INCREASE IN HAJ SUBSIDY
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has increase the Haj Subsidy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of pilgrims given Haj Subsidy during each of the last three years, till date;
- (d) the amount of the subsidy given;
- (e) whether the Government has also maintained status quo as existed in 2002 with regard to Haj Pilgrimage;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and (g) if not, the reasons thereof?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The Government increased the pilgrims quota for Haj from 72,000 to 82,000 and has agreed to provide additional subsidy of Rs.25 crores.

(c) and (d):

Year	No. of Pilgrims	Subsidy given (in crores)
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2004	70,298	173.63
2003	70,019	172.00
2002	71,945	160.70

(e) and (f): Yes, Sir. The Government has withdrawn the following conditions laid down for availing subsidy in air fare for Haj pilgrims:

(i) The subsidized Haj fare to be permitted for each pilgrims only once in his/her life time from Haj 2004 onwards.

(ii) No income tax payer to be allowed to avail of the subsidized fare from Haj 2004 onwards.

(iii) Only those pilgrims who live in the accomodation provided by Haj Committee would be eligible for the subsidized fare.

(g): Does not arise.