

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2124
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
VISIT OF PILGRIMS TO KAILASH-MANSAROVAR
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of pilgrims who visited the Kailash Mansarovar during each of the last three years;
- (b) the annual expenditure incurred and facilities provided by the Government to the pilgrims;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide subsidy to the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims on the lines of Haj pilgrims;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) The number of pilgrims who undertook the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra over the last three years is as follows:

2002 : 469
2003 : 316 (Yatra duration was truncated due to SARS epidemic in China)
2004 : 537

(b) Government of India pays Rupees Three thousand two hundred and fifty (Rs. 3,250/-) 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 the Indo-Tibetan Border Police 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 their general welfare.

(c)-(e) Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and Haj are pilgrimages which are essentially different in their nature so far as the mode of travel and the terrain are involved.