

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2607  
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009  
SPECIAL PASSPORT FOR HAJ  
Mani Shri Jose K.

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has made any negotiations with the Saudi Government to allow the continued use of Indian Passports instead of the special passport for Haj; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) & (b) Yes.The Indian Haj pilgrims will be travelling on Indian passports only. Those who are not in possession of valid Indian passports will be issued special limited-validity passports for the purpose of Haj travel alone, which will expire after eight months. The previous system of "Haj Passes" has been discontinued by the Saudi Government.