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Title: Need to rationalise and provide adequate quota for Haj Pilgrims from the State of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (PERIYAKULAM): The final quota for Haj pilgrims from Tamil Nadu is coming down over the years and this year the revised quota is 3181 against all time high receipt of 10508 applications. Tamil Nadu has approximately 600 KM of coast line with large concentration of Muslim population. The census shows the population of Muslims as 34 lacs which is not correct. The Government need to come clean on this aspect, and provide figures of SCs, STs, OBCs and most backward classes also.

The figure of 34 lac Muslim population appears to be based on 1991 Census and not 2001 Census. Muslim population of Tamil Nadu is highly agitated on this issue as the community is being denied their due share in the proportional distribution of additional quota by misquoting the figures. Even the present system of population based allotment to States is not appropriate. The allotment should be made in proportion to number of applicants in each State. The practice of ensuring seats for the applicants who could not get a chance during previous year must be restored. If this suggestion is accepted by the Government, share of Tamil Nadu in additional quota will be satisfactory and substantial.

I request the government to take immediate remedial action.

* Treated as laid on the Table