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Title: Need to release additional Haj quota for Tamil Nadu to enable more pilgrims to perform Haj in 2015.

SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM (KANCHEEPURAM): Tamil Nadu State Haj Committee has received 15,032 applications from pilgrims for Haj 2015. The Haj Committee of India has allotted a quota of only 2585 seats to Tamil Nadu this year. As per the guidelines for Haj 2015, 1699 pilgrims have been selected under the reserved category, while 886 seats have been utilized for the general category pilgrims. This has left 12,000 applicants disappointed. During earlier years, the Union Government had released additional seats which enabled a larger number of pilgrims from Tamil Nadu to perform Haj. A total of 3696 and 2858 pilgrims have performed Haj during 2013 and 2014 respectively. The Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has already written to the Prime Minister on this issue. I appeal to the Government to release additional Haj quota for Tamil Nadu to enable more pilgrims to perform Haj this year.