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Title: Regarding Haj quota for Kerala.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for having granted me time to raise a very important matter relating to Haj pilgrimage.

Thousands of Indian pilgrims perform Haj every year and the number of applicants for Haj pilgrimage is on the increase year-by-year. From the State of Kerala alone, 56,130 persons have applied for Haj pilgrimage in the year 2014. Out of this only 3,350 persons have been granted opportunity to visit Mecca. A huge number of pilgrims are awaiting the decision of the Government to increase the quota so that more number of pilgrims can go on Haj. The Union Government has got 300 seats for distribution among various States and the final decision has been taken on the first hundred seats. It is disappointing to note that not even a single application from the State of Kerala has been considered by the Government.

Considering the large number of applications from Kerala, I urge upon the Government to increase the Haj quota and help more pilgrims to go on Haj pilgrimage from the State of Kerala. Thank you very much....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE : You always quote rules when we wish to seek even small clarifications. I would like to know where are the Cabinet Ministers?...(*Interruptions*) मैं यही कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब हमारी बांसी आती है, हम बात करना चाहते हैं तो आप रूल कोट करते हैं। यह रूल्स में कहा है।

श्री जगदम्बिका पाल : मंत्रिपरिषद का सामूहिक उत्तरदायित्व है।

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please take your seat. Just now the Cabinet Minister has asked for permission to go as there is a Cabinet meeting. She wanted to attend that meeting and that is why I have allowed her to go.

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, पंचायती राज मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा पेयजल और स्वच्छता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री उपेन्द्र कुशवाहा) : कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर्स वहां चले गये हैं,

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE : You should remember this is how we can also embarrass you. We do not want to disturb the House....(*Interruptions*)