

Increase in Haj quota

†2934. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are contemplating to increase the Haj quota;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government are contemplating to increase the Haj quota this year as ICL of people are deprived of Haj Pilgrimage due to inadequate quota despite submitting applications every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The quota for each country for Haj is fixed by the Government of Saudi Arabia on the basis of certain criteria and India has been allocated a quota of 1,47,000 pilgrims for Haj 2006II. Haj Committee of India has been allotted pilgrim quota of 1,00,000 and private tour operators 47,000.

(c) As the total number of pilgrims for each country is set by Saudi Authorities, it is **not** possible for the Government to increase the quota. However, a request **has** been made to Saudi Authorities for increase of Haj quota for Indian pilgrims by 10,000 for Haj 2006II *i.e.* to raise it to a total of 1,57,000 pilgrims.

import of arms by Sri Lanka from Pakistan

2935. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Sri Lankan Government have imported arms and ammunition from Pakistan to use against the Tamils and LTTE in Sri Lanka;
- (b) the background of the present attack between Sri Lankan Army and LTTE and what could be the loss of lives of Tamils and LTTE on the one side and Sri Lankan Army and Sri Lankans on the other during the attack and encounter; and
- (c) the initiatives taken by Government of India to prevent the killings of Tamils in Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of Sri Lanka sources its defence supplies from various countries.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.