

### **Subsidy to Haj Pilgrims**

2505. SHRI RAASHID ALVI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Haj applications received by the Ministry this year;
- (b) the total subsidy granted to pilgrims;
- (c) the total number of applicants who were not issued passports; and
- (d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) The total number of applications received by the Haj Committee of India for Haj - 2010 are 3,00,680.

- (b) Information is tabulated below:

Financial Year	Haj Subsidy granted to pilgrims (administered by Ministry of Civil Aviation)
2009-10	Rs. 611* crore
2010-11	Figures will be available after completion of Haj.

\*-provisional figures

(c) and (d) The applicants who were not issued passports are 1,322 due to incomplete application forms, submission after due date, absence of requisite documents.

### **List of PoWs**

†2506. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any list of Prisoners of War (PoWs) confined in neighbouring countries jails;
- (b) whether Government has worked on any plan for securing release of PoWs confined in the jails of neighbouring countries; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) According to available information, there are no Prisoners of War in neighbouring countries except for Pakistan. According to available information, 74 Missing Defence Personnel are believed to be in Pakistani jails, including 54 Prisoners of War since 1971.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.