

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.

(b) and (c) Government has repeatedly taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan through diplomatic channels and during high-level contacts for the release of Indian Prisoners of War believed to be in Pakistan. However, Pakistan does not acknowledge the presence of any Missing Defence Personnel in its custody. During the visit of External Affairs Minister to Pakistan in January, 2007, Pakistan Government was persuaded to receive a delegation of relatives of Missing Defence Personnel to permit them to visit prisons in Pakistan, where they are believed to be incarcerated. A delegation of relatives, accordingly, visited 10 jails in Pakistan from June 1-14, 2007. The delegation could not conclusively confirm the physical presence of the Indian Prisoners of War. Pursuant to the visit of the delegation of the relatives of Missing Defence Personnel, a Tri-Service Committee for monitoring matters on the subject has been formed in the Ministry of Defence. The issue of Missing Defence Personnel was also raised during the Foreign Minister level talks in Islamabad on July 15, 2010.

Agreements with Malaysia

2507. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether seeking to give new impetus to the bilateral relations, India and Malaysia have decided to bring a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement to boost trade and decided on a range of other engagements in various sectors, including defence;

(b) if so, whether India and Malaysia signed five pacts in various areas during the Prime Minister's visit to Malaysia;

(c) if so, the details of the agreements signed;

(d) whether India also welcomed the greater investment from Malaysia in manufacturing sector; and

(e) the extent these agreements have been implemented so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Yes. An 'Agreement towards Implementing Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Malaysia on 1 July, 2011' was signed with Malaysia during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to Malaysia in October, 2010. This Agreement, *inter alia*, provides for signing of the CECA by 31 January, 2011 and its entry into force by 1 July, 2011.

(b) and (c) Yes. In addition to the above mentioned agreement, following five MoUs/Agreement were also signed:

1. MoU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems on Indian Medicine