

1	2	3	4
Kozhikode	Kozhikode 1, Kozhikode 2	Kannur 1, Kannur 2	4
Thane	Thane	Nasik	2
Madurai	Madurai*	Tirunelveli City*	2
Pune	Pune	None	1
Patna	Patna	None	1
Visakhapatnam	Visakhapatnam*	None	1
Surat	Surat	None	1
Bhopal	Bhopal	None	1
Ghaziabad	Ghaziabad	None	1
Bareilly	Bareilly	None	1
Malappuram	Malappuram	None	1
Nagpur	Nagpur	None	1
Amritsar	Amritsar	None	1
Coimbatore	Coimbatore*	None	1
Bhubaneswar	Bhubaneswar	None	1
Ranchi	Ranchi	None	1
Guwahati	Guwahati	None	1
Panaji	Panaji	None	1
Jammu	Jammu	None	1
Srinagar	Srinagar	None	1
Shimla	Shimla	None	1
Raipur	Raipur	None	1
Dehradun	Dehradun	None	1
TOTAL PSKs			77

\*PSKs that are already in operation.

#### Kailash Mansarover pilgrims

†1296. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number of pilgrims who went to Kailash Mansarover during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) the total annual expenditure incurred in this regard and the facilities provided by Government to the pilgrims;

(c) whether Government considers to provide subsidy to Kailash Mansarover pilgrims on the line of Haj pilgrims;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIE. AHAMED): (a) The number of pilgrims who visited Kailash Mansarover by participating in the Yatra organized by the Ministry of External Affairs during the last five years:

Year	Number of pilgrims
2006	592
2007	674
2008	401
2009	607
2010	754

(b) Government of India arranges, on self-payment basis, facilities like transportation, accommodation, fresh food, security, medical tests, guides, Chinese visa, foreign exchanges, and porters and ponies for carrying goods and belongings of the Yatris. The same facilities are also made available on the Chinese side. Ministry of External Affairs appoints one Liaison Officer for each batch who is responsible for safety and well-being of the Yatris of his batch. The Liaison Officer is also supplied with a satellite phone to communicate with the Ministry of External Affairs and various other concerned agencies like Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN), ITBP, Pithoragarh District Administration etc., in case of any emergency. Air lift of Yatris by helicopter is also arranged in case of medical emergency. ITBP and their Chinese counterpart keep track of Yatris and share information on their movement and whereabouts through wireless. Besides, the Ministry of External Affairs remains in regular contact with Chinese Foreign Ministry regarding smooth conduct of Kailash Mansarover Yatra and upgrading of facilities for the Yatris on Chinese side. The total amount spent on this annually during the last five years is as under:

Year	Amount spent
1	2
2006	Rs. 42,86,063/- plus US\$ 10,000

1	2
2007	Rs. 54,89,046/- plus US\$ 10,000
2008	Rs. 36,42,455/- plus US\$ 10,000
2009	Rs. 55,54,074/- plus US\$ 15,000
2010	Rs. 57,81,222/- plus US\$ 15,000

(c) to (e) Government of India does not give any subsidy to pilgrims participating in the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. However, disbursements at the rate of Rs. 3250/- per pilgrim are made to Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN), a Government of Uttarakhand Authority, for providing logistical support to the pilgrims.

#### **Resumption of Tuticorin-Colombo ferry service**

1297. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tuticorin- Colombo ferry service has been resumed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Ms. Jayalalitha has urged the centre to suspend the resumed ferry service saying her Government was not consulted on the move; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):

(a) Yes, the Tuticorin-Colombo ferry services commenced on 13th June, 2011.

(b) During the visit of the President of Sri Lanka to India from 8-11 June, 2010, both India and Sri Lanka, recognising the need to speedily restore the traditional links between the two countries, agreed to resume the ferry services between Tuticorin and Colombo and between Rameswaram and Talaimannar. Pursuant to this decision, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between India and Sri Lanka on 7th January, 2011, to commence passenger services between the ports of Tuticorin and Colombo and between Rameswaram and Talaimannar. Concurrence for signing the MoU from all concerned Departments and Agencies and the Government of Tamil Nadu was obtained. The ferry services between Tuticorin-Colombo are expected to mutually benefit the economic, social and cultural advancement of the two countries and further strengthen tourism and people-to-people contacts between India and Sri Lanka, especially between the southern part of India and the northern part of Sri Lanka.