

in Maharashtra. Three in Mumbai and one each in Thane, Nashik, Pune and Nagpur in PPP mode in partnership with TCS.

(e) and (f) The PSK provides a comfortable ambience and amenities including photocopying, food and Beverage facilities, public phone booth, baby care, newspapers and magazines and television in an air-conditioned waiting lounge. As the number of public dealing counters have been increased from the erstwhile 350 to 1610 in the new system and public dealing hours have gone up from 4 hours to 7 hours a day, the applicants do not have to wait long for submission of passport applications. Moreover, under PSP, there is provision of giving on-line appointment to applicants in order to visit the PSK at the appointed hour and the date to reduce waiting time at the PSK. Senior Citizens and differently abled applicants are given priority tokens in the PSK.

#### **Timley Selection of Khadimul Hujjaj**

†4539. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many State Governments do not make timely selection of the Khadimul Hujjaj to be sent for the service of the Haj pilgrims;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to the late selection of the Khadimul Hujjaj, they are being sent along with the Haj pilgrims;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Haj pilgrims have to face a lot of hardships due to Khadimul Hujjaj not being sent in advance; and

(d) whether Government would arrange at least one Khadimul Hujjaj in every aeroplane meant for the Haj pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) and (d) Adequate arrangements are made by Government of India and the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai for facilitating the stay of Haj Pilgrims in Saudi Arabia. If Khadimul Hujjaj nominated by the State Haj Committees travel with the pilgrims of the respective State, it will be an added advantage. Government has already directed the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai and all the State Haj Committees to ensure that Khadimul-Hujjaj travel with Haj is during Haj 2012.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.