

by way of subsidy for air travel of Haj pilgrims during Haj 2010, 2011 and 2012 is provisionally estimated at Rs. 600 crores, Rs. 692 crores and Rs. 835 crores respectively.

Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* its Interim Order dated May 08, 2012 has directed the Government to progressively reduce the amount of subsidy so as to completely eliminate it within a period of 10 years from May 08, 2012. Each pilgrim who travelled through the Haj Committee of India for Haj 2012 paid an amount of Rs. 20,000/- towards the air fare as compared to Rs. 16,000/- during Haj 2011.

Provocative activities of Pakistan

†1141. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provocative activities of Pakistan on border are adversely affecting the diplomatic relationship of Indo-Pak;

(b) whether keeping in view the activities of Pakistan, Indian Government has reviewed the on going confidence building process;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the decisions taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) Government deplored the gravely provocative and repugnant acts of the killing of two Indian soldiers and the barbaric mutilation of their bodies by the Pakistan Army near the Line of Control in the Mendhar sector on January 8, and has called upon the Government of Pakistan to carry out a proper investigation of this unacceptable action and ensure that this does not recur. While the dialogue process with Pakistan has not been halted, it has been conveyed that Pakistan should not believe that its brazen denial and lack of proper response will be ignored and that bilateral relations could be unaffected or that there will be business as usual.

Financial assistance to the GUDI

1142. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has released any grant during last two years for the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.