

Vacancies in NCM

4457. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) formed to protect the interests of minority communities is left with no member after the last member demitted office on 9th March, 2017 on completion of his term; and

(b) if so, the dates on which the seven members of the commission completed their terms and the reasons for not filling the vacancies on time leading to a situation where there is not a single member to deal with the complaints coming from across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) The process for nomination of Chairperson and Members is under active consideration. The details of dates on which the Chairperson and Members completed their tenure is available on the website of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) at www.ncm.nic.in

Draw of lots for Haj pilgrims from Uttarakhand

†4458. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that starting draw of lots for Haj pilgrims for the entire Uttarakhand State at the State-level by Central Haj Committee, Mumbai is causing decline in the number of Haj pilgrims from this State;

(b) if so, whether the earlier practice of district-wise draw of lots at State-level would be restored;

(c) if so, the details of the responses causing closure of this process;

(d) whether the State has requested that the number of Haj pilgrims from State should be fixed at two thousand; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Ministry thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) No, Madam. The total quota for the Haj pilgrims for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Uttarakhand has been increased from 847 seats in Haj 2016 to 1061 seats in Haj 2017.

(b) and (c) All the pilgrims from Uttarakhand are from reserved category and therefore, there is no quota available for fresh applicants. As per the Haj Committee of India (HCoI) guidelines, in case the number of applications under Reserved Category received in a State/Union Territory (UT) exceeds the quota allocated to the State/UT, then Qurrah (draw of lots) will be conducted within the Reserved Category. Hence, draw of lots for the State of Uttarakhand is done at the State-level. As and when quota becomes available for fresh applicants, the State Haj Committee can choose to conduct draw of lots State-wise or District-wise.

(d) and (e) The Requests for increase in quota have been received from Uttarakhand. However, the HCoI distributes seats among the States/UTs in proportion to their Muslim population as per 2011 Census. As the quota for Haj 2017 has already been allocated among the States/ UT, no further quota is available for allocation to Uttarakhand.

Haj pilgrims

†4459. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 3028 answered in Rajya Sabha on 28 March, 2017 and state:

- (a) whether it is fact that Saudi Arabia has allowed more than double the number of Haj pilgrims from India this year as compared to earlier;
- (b) if so, whether Government would fix State-wise quota for Haj pilgrims;
- (c) if so, the quota fixed in this regard, the list thereof State-wise; and
- (d) if not, how the number of Haj pilgrims from States would be fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) No, Madam. As per the Annual Bilateral Agreement signed between India and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for Haj 2017, a quota of 1,70,025 pilgrims {1,25,025 seats for Haj Committee of India (HCoI) and 45,000 seats for Private Tour Operators(PTOs)} has been allocated for Indian pilgrims, which is 25% more than the previous year.

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