

include inviting applications, making selection of pilgrims for Haj, Haj Visa, accommodation and transport in Makkah and Madinah, Group Insurance, vaccination, stainless steel Bracelets/tri-colour identity cards for identification of the pilgrims in close coordination with State/Union Territory Haj Committees. It also facilitates their passport, foreign exchange in Saudi Riyals and conduct orientation/training programmes. Ministry of Civil Aviation supervises the Air Charter operations during Haj period and deploys officials in Saudi Arabia to assist in embarkation and disembarkation of pilgrims in 21 Embarkation points across India. Consulate General of India, Jeddah, has the responsibility to look after the pilgrims and to redress their grievances on reaching Jeddah/Madinah Munawwarah airport and while they are in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Government of India deputs administrative and medical staff during Haj Season in the form of Haj Assistant/Assistant Haj Officer/Doctor/para-medical staff including Co-ordinator for providing round-the-clock facilities to Haj pilgrims in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Consulate General of India also provides various medical facilities to the Indian Haj pilgrims.

Discrimination being faced by minority communities

4461. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to take or has taken, any action to prevent the discrimination being faced by members of minority communities on the basis of their religion, in being denied housing accommodation on rent or sale; and

(b) if so, the details therefor and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) National Commission for Minorities (NCM) was set up to safeguard the interest of Minorities and the Commission has been entrusted with a number of functions which, *inter alia*, include looking into specific complaints regarding deprivation of rights and safeguards of the Minorities and taking up of such matters with the appropriate authorities. However, the subject matter of providing housing accommodation on rent or sale comes under the jurisdiction of the State Government concerned.

Skill development of minorities under Nai Manzil Programme

4462. SHRI K. T. S. TULSI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of individuals belonging to minority communities who were