

Statement

*Details of funds collected and utilised during the last three years
under the PMKKKY*

(As on February, 2020)

Sl. No.	Name of Districts	DMF Collection (In crore)	Fund Utilised (In crore)
1.	Anooppur	299.04	105.60
2.	Shahdol	75.98	38.01
3.	Sidhi	12.34	0.00
4.	Singrauli	1805.46	444.91
5.	Ummaria	51.68	39.31

Facilities for Haj pilgrims

3312. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of preparations made to ensure the smooth journey of Haj pilgrims and to facilitate their recurring problems;

(b) the steps taken/being taken for accommodation of Haj pilgrims in Saudi Arabia; and

(c) the details of decision taken in the annual inter-Ministerial Haj review meeting?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) Haj-related arrangements in India prior to departure for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) are made by various agencies in India. To make the Haj journey smooth for the pilgrims coming through Haj Committee of India (HCoI), from arrival at KSA till their return to India, elaborate logistic and administrative arrangements are set up by the Consulate General of India, Jeddah, for their comfortable stay and hassle-free movement during their stay in Saudi Arabia.

Haj Committee of India (HCoI), a statutory organization under Ministry of Minority Affairs is mandated to make all arrangements for the pilgrims in India as per extant

policy. HCoI invites applications from the intending Haj pilgrims, makes selection of pilgrims, makes arrangements for Group Insurance, vaccination of pilgrims, stainless steel Bracelets/ tri-colour identity cards for identification of the pilgrims, foreign exchange in Saudi Riyals, Adahi coupons, distribution of SIM cards for mobile phones and conducts orientation/ training programmes in close coordination with State/ Union Territory Haj Committees (SHCs). It also makes arrangements for endorsement of Haj Visa in coordination with Saudi Consulate in Mumbai and its delivery to the pilgrims in coordination with SHCs. It also deputes Khadim ul Hujjaj for the assistance of Haj pilgrims during their stay in Saudi Arabia.

Ministry of Civil Aviation makes arrangements for air travel of HCoI pilgrims. It issues the tender inviting bids from the eligible Airlines as per bilateral agreement with Saudi Arabia for transporting the pilgrims of HCoI and supervises the air charter operations during Haj period from the designated Embarkation Points across India. The selected airlines, concerned airport authorities, HCoI and SHCs deploy officials at the embarkation points to assist the pilgrims in embarkation and disembarkation of pilgrims. Ministry of External Affairs facilitates timely issue of passports and Haj visas for the intending pilgrims and facilitates communication with the Saudi Government on Haj matters. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare makes arrangements for requisite number of mandatory vaccines for the Haj pilgrims and its timely supply to the State/ District health authorities for administration to the pilgrims in coordination with HCoI/ SHCs.

Ministry of Minority Affairs deputes administrative and medical staff, as Coordinators/Assistant Haj Officers/Haj Assistants/Doctors/paramedical staff including women staff for providing round-the clock facilities to Haj pilgrims during their stay in Makkah and Madinah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It makes arrangements for supply of medicines/medical equipments to CGI, Jeddah for use in the temporary hospitals and dispensaries set up in Saudi Arabia during Haj season. It also registers and allocates Haj quota to private Haj Group Organisers (HGOs) through a transparent procedure. It coordinates with different Ministries and stakeholders, for the smooth and hassle free journey of Haj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

Consulate General of India (CGI), Jeddah, under the overall supervision of Ambassador of India in Saudi Arabia makes arrangements for accommodation, local transport, etc. for the Indian haj pilgrims in Saudi Arabia in coordination with Haj Committee of India and Ministry of Minority Affairs. It facilitates baggage collection

from airport, pre-allotment of accommodation, provides tricolor umbrellas and two sets of bedsheets and pillow covers to each Indian pilgrim. Temporary offices, hospitals and dispensaries are opened in Saudi Arabia for the Indian haj pilgrims. Provision is made for 16 temporary branch cum dispensaries in Makkah and 3 temporary branch cum dispensaries in Madinah. In addition, 40 bedded, 30 bedded and 10 bedded temporary Hospitals in Makkah and another 10 bedded temporary Hospital in Madinah, equipped with diagnostic facilities such as Ultrasound, ECG etc., are set up during Haj season to ensure proper health facilities to Haj Pilgrims. Seventeen ambulances and several medical task force teams run round-the-clock to cater to pilgrims' urgent medical requirements and special needs of pilgrims falling in the High-Risk Group. During core Haj-Period, a camp office cum dispensary operates from Mina and Arafat, to cater to the concerns of the pilgrims in Mashaer region. The Consulate closely coordinates with Maktabas (Saudi agencies based in Makkah) to ensure that the Maktabas are made fully aware of the requirements of Indian pilgrims and deliver good services particularly in Mashaer region during core-Haj period. In the departure phase, remote city check-in of pilgrims' baggage in their own buildings ensures a hassle-free and comfortable return of pilgrims to India. Modern tools of IT are extensively harnessed in the Haj operation. e-MASIHA (Medical Assistance System for Indian Hajis Abroad) is a portal for comprehensive management of pilgrims' medical database and medical stock. Mobile app "Indian Haji Information System" aids pilgrims to locate their accommodation, Maktabas in Mina, branch office etc. and can be used to lodge grievances or submit feedback. Updates on Haj operation are provided on Facebook and Twitter, and daily video report on Haj are uploaded on Youtube channel. A film titled 'A Practical Guide to Perform Haj', made by the Consulate, provides comprehensive information about the journey of Haj and is used for training and orientation of pilgrims. The Consulate also prints maps of Makkah, Madinah, Mina and Arafat for distribution. Also, tricolor signboards are put on all HCoI pilgrims' buildings giving important information in 3 languages - Hindi, English and Arabic. In addition to the above, various other services are provided for HCoI pilgrims, including distribution of free Saudi SIM cards in India; distribution of Adahi (Qurbani) coupons to all pilgrims who opted for Adahi; distribution of metro train tickets to the pilgrims of all the maktabas which have been allotted train facility; ferrying of zamzam water (5 litre can per pilgrim) to embarkation points etc. Several online and offline means to lodge grievance are made available to pilgrims, and the grievances are monitored 24X7, and addressed swiftly. For pilgrims, who travel

through Haj Group Organizers (HGOs), a HGO desk is set up in Main Offices in Makkah and Madinah.

However, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia *vide* letter dated 06.03.2020 has requested the Indian Government, that they should not make any new commitments regarding the Haj of this year 1441 (2020) and wait until the course of epidemic (new Coronavirus) becomes clear.

(b) Accommodation in Makkah is arranged in two categories, viz., Azizia and NCNTZ (Non-Cooking Non-Transportation Zone). For hired accommodation of HCOI pilgrims in Makkah, call for offers are advertised and the buildings submitted are inspected in two-tiers. A Building Selection Team (BST), comprising representative of State Haj Committees/ Officials of State Governments, inspects the buildings on offer and recommends or rejects the buildings. Then, a Building Selection Committee (BSC), comprising Members of HCOI and an Officer from the Consulate, undertakes inspection of buildings recommended by BST and approves or rejects the buildings. Once approved, hiring process of Saudi Haj Ministry (including signing of contract through online portal Sejel and payment) is followed. For Haj-2020, two teams of BST and one team of BSC has already visited and approved 191 buildings having a tasreeh (Saudi license) capacity of 66716 accommodation units. For hiring accommodation of HCOI pilgrims in Madinah, a tender is floated and bids invited. The bids submitted are evaluated by a Committee. The accommodation hired usually come through licensed Housing Groups. Accommodation in Madinah is hired in two categories, viz., Markazia and Non-Markazia.

(c) The decisions taken in the Annual Inter-Ministerial Haj review meeting held on 4th October, 2019 in New Delhi is given in the Statement.

Statement

*Decisions taken during the inter-ministerial haj review meeting held on
4th October, 2019 at New Delhi*

- (i) It was decided that the Saudi Government may be requested for increase in quota for India beyond 2 lakh pilgrims.
- (ii) It was decided that the ratio of quota sharing between HCOI and HGOs will remain 70:30. For Haj 2020, Haj quota of HCOI may be fixed at 1,40,000 pilgrims and 60,000 pilgrims for HGO.

- (iii) It was decided that HCoI may invite online applications for Haj 2020 from 10th October, 2019. Online applications for registration of private Haj Group Organisers (HGOs) may be invited from 1st November, 2019. HCoI may endeavor to achieve 100% online applications and dispense with submission of hard copies of the application form.
- (iv) The proposal to allow one additional companion to 70+ pilgrims in case the existing companion is more than 60 years old, was discussed in detail and it was decided to continue with the existing policy.
- (v) The proposal regarding minimizing the documentation to be submitted as proof of address was discussed and it was decided that in case the address in Passport of the application is issued in other State, (i) Aadhar card, (ii) Voter ID Card and (iii) Utility bills note more than 3 months old, may be taken as proof of residence, (vi) After detailed review, of the arrangements made for accommodation in Saudi Arabia, the following were decided:-
 - (a) For Haj 2020, the existing two categories of accommodation in Makkah namely Non Cooking Non Transport Zone (NCNTZ) and Azizia category will continue.
 - (b) Keeping in view the demand for NCNTZ category, CGI, Jeddah may make effort to hire at least 15,000 units of accommodation in this category. Hiring of buildings may be preferred in the areas without slope on the way to Haram. Rest of the units can be hired in Azizia. The existing norms for hiring building within 1000 mtrs of outer periphery of Haram Sharief will be retained for Haj 2020.
 - (c) The proposal to hire big hotel-type buildings in Azizia without cooking facility was discussed in detail and it was decided, for the present, to continue with the existing practice of hiring buildings with kitchen facilities.
 - (d) It was decided that buildings with lower ratio of toilet (3 to 4) and kitchen facilities may be preferred.
 - (e) For Haj 2020, it may be ensured that all the hired buildings irrespective of their general health, must have the basic facilities and services like cleanliness, working lifts, prayer area and proper drinking water, etc.
 - (f) HCoI will generate awareness regarding the comparative advantages/disadvantages of NCNTZ and Azizia category of accommodation among the

pilgrims through visuals and short videos, which may help in reducing load from the NCNTZ category. It may clearly indicate in the application form that the accommodation in NCNTZ is not guaranteed.

- (g) The issue of providing 100% Metro train facility to the pilgrims who are accommodated outside the traditional boundaries of Mina with the Saudi authorities may be taken up during the bilateral meeting with Saudi authorities.
- (vii) Following decisions were taken with regard to Madinah accommodation:-
 - (a) The proposal of HCoI for abolition of choice of Markazia/ outside Markazia for Madinah accommodation category in the Haj Application Form was agreed.
 - (b) Efforts shall be made for 100% accommodation in Markazia area in Madinah.
 - (c) 50:50 distribution of pilgrims in Madinah in pre-Haj and post Haj period may be ensured to avoid concentration of pilgrims and number of flights from and to Madinah airport.
- (viii) It was decided that the existing practice of deciding upper ceilings of rates for the accommodation may continue and buildings may be hired at uniform rates to obviate any discretion. CGI, Jeddah may formulate minimum benchmark facilities for hiring of buildings. After detailed discussion, following decisions were taken for Haj 2020 with regard to the rates of accommodation:-
 - (a) The upper ceiling of rentals of Madinah accommodation may be kept at the same rate as was in Haj-2019 (*i.e.* SR 800 in Markazia and SR 400 for non-Markazia). However, efforts may be made by CGI, Jeddah to reduce the rates further.
 - (b) In Makkah also, the upper ceiling of rentals may be kept at the same rate as was in Haj-2019 *i.e.* SR 4450 in NCNTZ and SR 2480 in Azizia (2250 building rental+ SR 230 for transport).
 - (c) Buildings below the benchmark facilities will not be hired.
 - (d) For Azizia-Haram transport service, use of buses of 2018 and above model in Haj-2019 was appreciated by Hajis and can be continued in Haj-2020 also. Pilgrims accommodated in Azizia can be charged accordingly.

- (ix) It was decided that CGI, Jeddah may take a conscious decision in consultation with HCoI regarding the optimum number of BST/ BSC required for inspection of buildings for Haj 2020 and send a proposal to the Ministry.
- (x) With regard to supply of umbrella, bedsheets, pillow covers, bucket, mug, lota, wiper, WC brush, disinfectant, cleaning brush and pan, etc., by the building owners, it was decided that for Haj 2020, the existing practice may continue. Meanwhile, CGI, Jeddah in consultation with HCoI will explore various options and suggest a viable solution for consideration.
- (xi) After discussing the various issues related to air charter operations, the following decisions were taken:-
- (a) All the Embarkation Points (EP) for Haj 2019 will continue for Haj 2020.
 - (b) Vijayawada will be started as new embarkation point for the pilgrims of Andhra Pradesh.
 - (c) The proposal for starting of Kannur airport as additional embarkation point for the pilgrims of Kerala will be examined in the Haj Committee. The viability of starting additional EP in Kerala along with proper justification may be submitted to the Ministry for further examination in consultation with MoCA.
 - (d) To minimize the fluctuation in number of pilgrims EP-wise given in the tender document and to reduce the operational difficulties by the airlines, choice once given by the pilgrims at the application stage will be final and no change for the same will be considered by HCoI.
 - (e) Suggestions given by HCoI and CGI, Jeddah for improvement in the services of Airlines may be considered in the Haj Air Travel Committee (HATC) meeting.
 - (f) MoCA may ensure improved facilities and services of airlines for the Haj pilgrims during Haj 2019.
- (xii) It was decided that the existing practice of hiring of newer model of buses (2018 & above) at an additional payment of SR 50/-, over and above the common Bus Transportation charges paid to Naqaba Sayyarat for bus transportation between Makkah and Madinah, may be continued.
- (xiii) With regard to vaccines and medicines for Haj pilgrims, the following decisions were taken:-

- (a) M/o H&FW will ensure that the vaccines are procured and supplied to State Haj Committees well in advance.
 - (b) HCoI will provide tentative number of pilgrims based on the current year's Haj quota to M/o Health with a scope of 10% variation so that the process of procurement of vaccines could be started immediately.
 - (c) MoH&FW may ensure timely verification of list of medicines for supply to CGI, Jeddah for Haj 2020 and nominate an agency for procurement and supply of medicines/ medical items to CGI, Jeddah. Based on the supply and leftover stock of Haj 2019, CGI, Jeddah will provide the indent of medicines/ medical items by November, 2019 so that the same could be sent to MoHFW.
 - (d) M/o H&FW / DGHS may issue suitable advisories to the State Governments for strict screening of Haj pilgrims so that the cases of terminal illness and infectious diseases may be restricted.
 - (e) M/o Health will issue an advisory to all the Principal Secretaries of States/ UTs to forward the applications of candidates in time and relieve them quickly, in case of their selection.
- (iv) On the proposal of CGI, Jeddah for additional Assistant Haj Officers and Haj Assistants for Haj 2020, it was decided that CGI, Jeddah will send a proposal in this regard to the Ministry including its financial implication and availability of budget, which will be examined separately.
- (xv) With regard to Khadim-UI-Hujjaj, the following were decided:-
- (a) The existing name of the post may be retained.
 - (b) HCoI will ensure that flight schedule of Khadimul Hujjaj is prepared in such a way that at least one Khadimul Hujjaj is present in all incoming flights. If they come late they will have to bear their own cost.
 - (c) HCoI will ensure that rigorous training to Khadim-ul-Hujjaj is imparted well in advance before their departure so that they travel along with the Hajis, appropriately guide their Hajis and work under the Consulate General of India, Jeddah.
- (xvi) HCoI was advised to refund the due amount to other pilgrims, if any, within one month. It was also suggested that refund of amount to the pilgrims should be a routine process and a system should be developed so that the refunds are

remitted automatically to the pilgrims account immediately after completion of Haj.

(xvii) It was decided that intensive training should be imparted to the pilgrims in India.

Training should not be only limited to specific period of time for the selected pilgrims but it should be an year long activity for all the intending pilgrims. HCoI should develop comprehensive training modules for the training in consultation with the CGI, Jeddah such as Haj Rituals, Logistics in India and Saudi Arabia, Accommodation and Transport, Mina Movement, Madinah Stay, Personal Health, Air, Travel, Disaster Management, etc. Each Module should be printed in vernacular languages and widely distributed. Short videos and films on ground realities of arrangements in Saudi Arabia may be made and should be available for downloads from the HCoI website and mobile application. A State-wise pool of official deputationists sent on Haj duty in the past may be created, which may be used for training purposes.

(xviii) On the issue of pilgrims going for on Haj pilgrimage on business visa to Saudi Arabia and getting stranded there it was noted that there is need for generating awareness among the people on a wide scale to prevent them from fraud and cheating by the unscrupulous elements on the name of Haj pilgrimages.

(xix) On the issue of issuing thousands of complimentary Haj visas (Furada) by the Saudi embassy, MEA was requested to take up this issue with the Saudi Embassy appropriately.

National Commission for Minorities

3313. SHRI K.J. ALPHONS: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the objective of setting up National Commission for Minorities; and
- (b) the achievement of the Commission during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) The Minorities Commission was established in 1978 as a Non-Statutory Body *vide* Home Ministry Notification No. 11-16012/2/77-NID of 12.01.1978. The Government resolution stated as follows:-

- (i) Despite the safeguards provided in the Constitution and the laws in force there persist amongst the Minorities a feeling of inequality and discrimination.