

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 766
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2021**

HAJ EMBARKATION POINT AT CALICUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

766. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Haj Committee of India did not list Calicut International Airport as a Haj embarkation point this year;
- (b) if so, the reason for removing the Calicut Airport from the list of embarkation points;
- (c) whether Government has received any letter of request from the Calicut International Airport Authority or others to restore the same;
- (d) if so, the decision taken on the same; and
- (e) whether Government is ready to reconsider its earlier decision as there is huge public demand in the Malabar region to keep Calicut as an embarkation point?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)**

- (a) & (b) The arrangements for Haj 2021 are being made under special circumstances with special norms, rules & regulations, Pandemic Protocol eligibility criteria, etc. due to Covid-19 Pandemic. Provisional guidelines including Embarkation Points for Haj 2021, have been issued by Haj Committee of India after extensive consultation with concerned Ministries and Indian Mission in Saudi Arabia, taking into consideration the expected reduced Haj quota for Indian pilgrims to be allocated by the Saudi Government. For Haj 2021 only, in view of Covid-19 pandemic situation the number of Embarkation Points have been reduced from the existing 21 to 10.
- (c) to (e) Some representations were received for restoring Calicut Airport as an Embarkation Point for Haj 2021. However, in view of Covid-19 pandemic situation, the same could not be acceded to.
