

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 415
ANSWERED ON- 28/11/2024

KAILASH MANASAROVAR PILGRIMAGE

415. SHRI DORJEE TSHERING LEPCHA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government has taken any measures for infrastructure development to ensure the security of pilgrims in Kailash Mansarovar;
- (b) whether Government intends to introduce new protocols and emergency response systems to further bolster security in this region;
- (c) the steps taken by Government towards protection of environment, better health and medical facilities and preservation of culture in this pilgrimage destination;
- (d) whether Government is formulating any policy for better management of pilgrim, quotas and effective support for economically weaker pilgrims; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to raise awareness among potential pilgrims, specially in Sikkim and North-Eastern States?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to e) Government of India (GOI) has organised the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra every year between June and September, through the two official routes of Lipulekh Pass (since 1981) in Uttarakhand and Nathu La Pass (since 2015) in Sikkim. The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra has not taken place since 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and the subsequent restrictions.

During the operation of the Yatra, GOI takes various facilitating steps which include a dedicated website to simplify and expedite the registration and selection process, communication with Yatris, and a bilingual helpline. GOI, on a self-payment basis makes logistical arrangements including accommodation, food, transport and porters on the Indian side for the Yatra.

While no direct cash subsidy is provided by the Government of India to the individual Yatris, GOI incurs overhead expenditure on advertisement, printing of identity cards, posters, certificates and Chinese SIM cards (for Liaison Officers) etc. From time to time, GOI provides financial assistance for improving facilities along the Yatra route. Road connectivity has been established in recent years to facilitate movement of the Yatris to Lipulekh Pass in vehicles.

Two Liaison Officers from the Central and State governments are appointed for each batch. The Liaison Officers stay in touch with Indian and Chinese authorities concerned and seek assistance in case of any emergency for the safety and well-being of Yatris. Provision for air-lift of Yatris by helicopter is also available in coordination with concerned agencies in case of emergency. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) provides security cover and basic medical assistance to Yatris on the Indian side.
