

**F. No. 7/10/2016-Haj
Government of India
Ministry of Minority Affairs
(Haj Division)**

Dated: 31st January, 2017

ORDER

Subject: Review of the Haj Policy 2013-17 and Framework for a New Haj Policy 2018-22.

Haj is one of the most complex organizational tasks undertaken by Government of India outside its borders. Although a five day religious congregation, it is virtually a year-long managerial exercise. Indian Haj pilgrims who constitute one of the largest national group perform Haj through two streams - (i) the Haj Committee of India (HCOI), and (ii) registered Private Tour Operators (PTOs). HCOI established under the Haj Committee Act 2002 is responsible for making the arrangements for pilgrims performing Haj through them. All arrangements for the HCOI pilgrims in Saudi Arabia are coordinated by the Consulate General of India, Jeddah. The Haj quota for India fixed by the Saudi Arabian Government was reduced by 20% to 136,020 after Haj 2013. In 2016, 135,902 pilgrims performed Haj out of which 99,902 went through HCOI and 36,000 through PTOs. The Haj quota has been restored to 170,025 for Haj 2017.

2. Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment dated 16th April, 2013 examined some of the major issues concerning the Haj Policy of the Government of India and approved the (i) Haj Policy 2013-17 for the Haj Committee of India (HCOI) and (ii) Policy for Private Tour Operators (PTOs) for Haj 2013-17. While approving the Haj Policy for HCOI the Hon'ble Court inter alia directed ".....the final policy so framed shall remain valid and operative for a period of five years upto Haj 2017 and may be amended only in case of any change in the arrangements with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as per the agreement entered into between the two countries every year. The next five years policy will be similarly framed, keeping in view any problems that might have been encountered in following the previous policy and taking into account any improvements, innovations and technological advances in order to add content and quality to the succeeding policy and to make it perform better than the previous policy." Similarly Policy for Private Tour Operators for Haj 2013-2017 was approved with the direction that "it shall remain valid for five years and shall not be questioned before any court or authority." Thus the current policies are in force till Haj 2017.

3. Keeping in view directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court, and the crucial importance of the policy in facilitating comfortable travel and stay of Haj pilgrims, it is expedient to review the said policies with a view to further improve the arrangements for the benefit of the intending Haj pilgrims to cover the period 2018-2022. Therefore, in order to examine all aspects relevant to the formulation of a new policy to be applicable from Haj 2018 onwards, a Committee of knowledgeable people enjoying public confidence is constituted with the following composition:

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|-------|---|--------------------|
| (i) | Shri Afzal Amanullah, IAS, Retd. Former Secretary to Govt. of India and
Ex CGI, Jeddah | - Convener |
| (ii) | Justice S.S. Parkar, Retd. Judge of Bombay High Court | - Member |
| (iii) | Shri Qaiser Shamim, IRS (Retd), former Chairman, Haj Committee of
India | - Member |
| (iv) | Shri Kamal Faruqui, Noted Chartered Accountant & Muslim Scholar. | - Member |
| (v) | Shri Michael Mascarenhas, Retd. CMD Air India | - Member |
| (vi) | Shri J. Alam, Joint Secretary, in-charge of Haj, Ministry of Minority
Affairs | - Member Secretary |

4. The Committee shall have the following Terms of Reference;

- (i) Review the existing Haj policy pertaining to HCOI and PTOs in the light of its objectives and achievements.

- (ii) Examine implications of various directions of the Supreme Court with regard to the existing policy and to suggest suitable amendments in the said policy in the light of such directions.
 - (iii) Review the effectiveness of arrangements made by HCol for Haj pilgrims' accommodation and air travel including issues related with Haj subsidy.
 - (iv) Examine the effectiveness of inter-relationship and coordination in the functioning of Haj Committee of India and CGI.
 - (v) Examine the aspects of transparency, consumer satisfaction and disclosure requirements for PTOs to protect interest of the Haj Pilgrims with a view to make the new policy of greater assistance to the pilgrims.
 - (vi) Suggest measure for ensuring fair competition among PTOs and enhanced value for services provided by them.
 - (vii) Examine any other issues relevant to Haj policy for HCol and PTOs.
 - (viii) Suggest the framework for new Haj policy for HCol and PTOs in the light of the above.
5. The Committee shall be required to consult all sections of stakeholders, including travel trade.
 6. The Deputy Secretary, Haj Division shall assist the committee in its work and the Haj Division of the Ministry will provide secretarial assistance to the Committee.
 7. The expenses on the travel, accommodation, meetings and other arrangements for Committee shall be borne by the Haj Committee of India.
 8. The Committee will submit its report to the Ministry of Minority Affairs within three months of its constitution.



(J. Alam)

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India

Copy to:

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5. Shri Michael Mascarenhas, Retd. CMD Air India -152, Sainara 17, Cuffe Parade, Colaba, Mumbai, 400005
6. Shri J. Alam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs, New Delhi
7. CEO, Haj Committee of India, Mumbai
8. Consul General, CGI Jeddah
9. Deputy Secretary (Haj), Haj Division, MoMA, New Delhi

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2. PPS to Secretary (MA)
3. Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs – Kind Attention: Joint Secretary Gulf.
4. Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation – Kind Attention : Joint Secretary (AI)
5. All Joint Secretaries in the Ministry of Minority Affairs