GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *89

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24TH JULY, 2018 / SHRAVANA 2, 1940 (SAKA)

SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PILGRIMS

***89. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:**
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of pilgrims likely to visit the holy shrine of Amarnath during the current year;

(b) whether there are intelligence inputs suggesting threats of terrorist attacks on Amarnath pilgrims, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the security arrangements made for Amarnath Yatra by the Government;

(c) whether incidents of stone pelting on the vehicles of pilgrims going to the holy shrine of Amarnath have come to the notice of the Government and if so, the details thereof along with the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government is aware that the route covered under the Amarnath Yatra is in difficult terrain and accident-prone and if so, the details thereof along with the number of accidents reported, persons died/injured and the compensation paid to the victims during the last three years; and

(e) the further steps taken/being taken by the Government for the safety and security of the pilgrims visiting the holy shrine of Amarnath?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO THE LOK SHABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *89 FOR 24.07.2018 REGARDING SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PILGRIMS

(a) to (e): As per the information made available by Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, 2,68,591 pilgrims have registered for Shri Amarnathji darshan till 19.07.2018.

Adequate arrangements for safety and security of the pilgrims have been made along the Yatra routes. These include deployment of local police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), upgradation of tracks and fixing railings along the critical stretches of the tracks, provision of medical facilities, deployment of mountain rescue teams, NDRF and SDRF teams on strategic locations, installation of ten Automatic Weather Stations, etc. One incident of Stone pelting on two Yatra buses has been reported on 11.07.2018. No Yatri was injured in the incident.

Shri Amarnathji Yatra does pass through difficult and inhospitable terrain prone to landslides, shooting stone, snow avalanches, etc. The climate conditions en-route and at the Holy Cave are unpredictable. The number of pilgrims who died and injured during the Yatra in the last three years is as given below:

Year	Number of deaths	Number of Injured Yatris
2015	38	16
2016	22	31
2017	29	72

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Details of the compensation paid during the last three years are as under:

Year	**Ex-gratia relief disbursed to NOKs of deceased Yatris**		**Insurance claim disbursed to NOKs of deceased Yatris**		**Ex-gratia relief disbursed to the injured Yatris**	
	Number	Amount (in Rs. lakh)	Number	Amount (in Rs. lakh)	Number	Amount (in Rs. lakh)
2015	05	3.00	03	3.00	Nil	Nil
2016	09	6.25	03	3.00	Nil	Nil
2017	10	43.50	17	51.00	36	33.00
Total	**24**	**52.75**	**23**	**57.00**	**36**	**33.00**

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