

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(HAJJ CELL)

July 09, 2013

**Registration and allocation of seats to
Private Tour Operators (PTOs)
for Hajj 2013**

Private Tour Operators (PTOs) Policy for Hajj 2013-17 was approved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide Order dated March 16, 2013. Consequently, Government of India (GOI) issued a Press Release on April 23, 2013 inviting applications from interested PTOs for Hajj-2013 as per criteria mentioned in the PTO policy-2013-17. The last date for receipt of applications was May 13, 2013. In response, 863 applications were received by the Hajj Cell, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi - 278 under Category-I and 585 under Category-II. These applications were evaluated by a Firm of Chartered Accountants selected by inviting tenders.

2. After evaluation of all the 863 applications, 177 have been qualified in Category I and 239 in Category II, under the aegis of Hajj 2013-2017 PTO Policy, for Hajj 2013. The Ministry will communicate the reasons to the PTOs that have not been found eligible. These PTOs will be provided an opportunity to explain/clarify the reasons for disqualification. If the Ministry is satisfied with the reasons/clarifications offered, such PTOs will be considered for qualification effective Hajj 2014. Further, the Saudi Government has kindly acceded to the Ministry's request to reduce the minimum limit of from 150 pilgrims per PTO to 50 pilgrims for Hajj 2013 in view of the changed circumstances.

3. All eligible PTOs under Category I (177) have been allocated seats for Hajj 2013. Similarly, under Category II, out of the 239 eligible PTOs 4,400 have been allocated to 88 PTOs at the rate of 50 seats per PTO by "draw of lots" through a computer software program specially developed by M/S National Informatic Centre (NIC) for random selection of PTOs for registration. The list of eligible PTOs under Category I for (Annexure I), the list of eligible PTOs in Category II who have been allocated seats through Draw of Lots for Hajj 2013 (Annexure II) and the list of eligible PTOs including those who have been allocated seats for Hajj 2013 (Annexure III) are attached.
