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TAMIL NADU STATE HAJJ COMMITTEE 3rd Floor, 'Rosy Tower', New No.13(Old No.7), Mahathma Gandhi Road, (Nungambakkam High Road), Chennai-600 034.

PRESS RELEASE

The pilgrims from Tamil Nadu were sent in nine flights from Chennai from 30th November to 5th December 2007. Among them, the first batch of 439+1(infant) pilgrims from Tamil Nadu, including 235 women arrived at 6.00 A.M. today i.e. on 11th January 2008 at Anna International Airport, Chennai by Saudi Arabian Airlines after successfully performing Hajj pilgrimage (2007). Thiru. T.P.M. Mohideen Khan, Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Wakf, Thiru. J.M. Aaron Rashid, M.P., and Chairman, Tamil Nadu State Hajj Committee, Thiru. N. Vasudevan, I.A.S., Secretary to Government, Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Department, Secretariat, Chennai, Thiru. K. Allaudin, I.A.S., Member and Executive Officer and members of the Committee, Officials of Airports Authority of India, Customs, Air India, Central Industrial Security Force and Immigration received the pilgrims at the airport and extended a warm welcome to them.

- 2. The pilgrims completed the immigration/customs formalities and collected their baggages with the help of concerned agencies, staff and volunteers of Hajj Committee. They were served refreshments on their arrival. Free buses were arranged to transport the pilgrims to the Haj House for transit accommodation.
- 3. The other pilgrims will be returning to Chennai in eight more flights upto 17th January 2008 with one flight each on 12th, 13th and 14th January 2008 and two flights on 15th January and three flights on 16th January 2008. A total of 3834+14 (infants) pilgrims including 173+2(infants) pilgrims from Pondicherry and 75 pilgrims from Andaman and Nicobar Islands will disembark at Chennai. Tamil Nadu State Hajj Committee has made necessary arrangements to receive the pilgrims with the help of various Central and State Government agencies.