

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 14.7.2012 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr.Manmohan Singh**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is reproduced below:-

"The Tamil Nadu State Hajj Committee this year has received more than 12,100 applications for Hajj 2012. The Hajj Committee of India, Mumbai, has allotted a quota of 2863 seats for Tamil Nadu. Needless to say, this is woefully inadequate.

As per the guidelines for Hajj 2012, out of the total quota of 2863 seats, 1146 seats will be apportioned for reserved categories and about 1717 seats will be dispensed for selection under the general category. The number of disappointed applicants will be around 9243.

During Hajj 2011, the Hajj Committee of India had initially allotted a quota of 3049 seats against the receipt of more than 10,000 applications from Tamil Nadu. After the release of additional quota and Government discretionary quota, a total of 4084 pilgrims from this State were able to perform the Hajj pilgrimage during 2011, whereas the quota for this year is fixed as 2863 only which is an all time low. I therefore, request your kind intervention to enhance the quota taking into account the sizable Muslim population and the large number of applications received from Tamil Nadu for 2012.

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, may be requested to release a suitable additional number, so that a greater number of pilgrims from Tamil Nadu would be benefited and enabled to perform the Hajj pilgrimage in 2012."

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