

Hijack of Indian Airlines Plane

952. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH
(DEORIA):
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR
PATEL:
SHRI RAJENDRA
AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI B. DEVARAJAN:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI PARASRAM
BHARDWAJ:
SHRI PREM CHAND RAM:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA
GHANGARE:
SHRI SUBRATA
MUKHERJEE:
DR. ASIM BALA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an Indian Airlines plane was recently hijacked at Lucknow;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the investigations made into it; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes sir.

(b) The hijacker was carrying a small cloth bag in which he had kept his lunch box. He entwined white thread around two wooden pieces turning them in the form of table tennis balls and kept them inside the lunch box. These ball like objects were used later by him to project the threat of the bomb.

(c) The hijacker has been arrested and a criminal case registered against him by the Police.

National Food Processing Policy

953. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to formulate any national Food processing Policy;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The policy will address issues relating to accelerated growth and development of Food Processing Industries with a view to augment employment opportunities and incomes, both in rural and urban areas, reduce post-harvest losses, establish productive linkages between industry and farmers, increase exports of processed foods and generally support the productive efforts of agriculture and allied activities. Action has been initiated for formulating the policy.

[Translation]

Reaction in Bangladesh on Ayodhya Developments

954. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI KRIP CHALIHA:
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent communal flare up in Bangladesh resulting in large scale attack on minority communities in the wake of Ayodhya developments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in the matter;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the so-called long march by thousands of Bangladesh citizens through Indo-Bangladesh border;

(d) whether the Government have taken up this matter with Bangladesh; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to information available with us, some people were killed and a large number injured in violent reactions in Bangladesh in the wake of Ayodhya incident. A large number of houses, commercial establishments, and places of worships belonging to the minority community were reportedly attacked and damaged. Commenting on these tragic developments, our Spokesman in this statement on January 22, 1993, stated, inter alia, "The violent reactions in Bangladesh since December 7 which resulted in extensive damage to and destruction of hundreds of temples, houses, commercial establishments and other properties of the people belonging to the minority community in that country have caused untold sufferings and deep insecurity. Hence, the attempt to present Bangladesh as a model of communal harmony cannot be taken seriously."

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Having taken note of the situation arising out of the proposed Long March to Ayodhya, the Government of India made a strong demarche to the Bangladesh High Commissioner in Delhi on January 4, 1993. Further, our Spokesman stated that the proposed Long March was an unacceptable interference in our internal affairs and called upon the Government of Bangladesh to

prevent any illegal border crossing by Bangladesh nationals. The Long March was stopped by the Government of Bangladesh at Dhopakhola, 5 kms west of Jessore and 27 kms east of Benapole on the Bangladesh border.

Pakistan sponsoring Terrorism

955. SHRI KESHRI LAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US and UK have taken any steps to put Pakistan in the surveillance list with a view to declare it as a 'State Sponsoring Terrorism';

(b) whether the Government have apprised the Governments of these countries about Pakistan's support to subversive and terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved thereon; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to create international awareness in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) The US Government have deferred a decision to name Pakistan as a State sponsor of terrorism but would be closely monitoring the situation in this regard.

The UK Government has urged Pakistan not to allow material support for Kashmir militants from within Pakistan.

(b) to (d). Government have and will continue to apprise the international community, including the Governments of UK and US, of the factual position regarding Pakistan's involvement with terrorism directed against India. There is international appreciation for India position.