

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1028
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000
INVESTIGATION OF HIJACKING ISSUE OF IA IC PLANE
SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he accompanied with the released terrorists upto Kandahar;
- (b) if so, the rationale for such a visit with terrorists;
- (c) whether the Government have investigated the reasons for the recent hijacking of Indian Airlines Plane; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome of such investigations?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a)-(b) The Minister for External Affairs decided to go to Kandahar so as to ensure that the termination of the hijacking and the smooth release and safe return of passengers and crew took place without any last minute hitch, also that should need arise, prompt decisions could be taken on the spot. The Minister's presence in Kandahar and on board the aircraft on which the passengers returned home, provided solace to all the released passengers who had been held hostage for over a week. His travel on the same aircraft as the three terrorists was solely on account of logistical compulsions brought about by the limited infrastructure facilities at Kandahar airport and its incapacity to handle any more aircraft simultaneously.

(c)-(d) The Central Bureau of Investigation are investigating the hijacking case.