

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2634  
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001  
FBI OFFICE IN DELHI  
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government have permitted the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of USA to open its office in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the date of such permission;
- (c) whether the said agency has started functioning;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government have considered the security problems arising due to it;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether the Government have received any memorandum/representation regarding closure of the F.B.I office;
- (h) if so, the details thereof, till date; and
- (i) the measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS( SHRI JASWANT SINGH )

(a) It was decided by mutual consultations to allow the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi to augment its strength for opening a Legal Attache Office. Such offices are normally manned by two FBI Officers.

(b) The approval of the Government was communicated to the U.S. Embassy in February 2000.

The decision was taken in the context of growing Indo-U.S. bilateral co-operation on counter-terrorism. While the necessary mechanism to counter terrorism was already in place with the Extradition Treaty and the Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism, the Legal Attache Office is meant to enable more effective co-ordination between Indian and U.S. law enforcement agencies. It is also expected to signal greater commonality of interests in the fight against terrorism, which will in turn exert pressure on terrorist groups.

(c)&(d) Yes, Sir. The Office has been functioning since September 2000. As per the guidelines provided by Government, the Office is manned by two law enforcement officers from the United States of America.

(e) & (f) The Office functions within parameters laid down by Government: it acts in coordination with the Indian law enforcement agencies and does not carry out independent investigations. No security problems are, therefore, expected to arise from it. Officers of Indian law enforcement agencies functioning in Embassy of India, Washington also follow similar guidelines.

(g) No, Sir.

(h)&(i) Do not arise.