

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7382
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002
US HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES REPORT
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the US State Department Country Report on Human Rights Practices, 2001 released in March 2002 has made certain critical remarks about problems concerning human rights in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) & (b) The U.S. State Department Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2001, released on March 4, 2002 made some critical remarks about extra-judicial killings, deaths in police custody and excessive use of force by security forces in India. It, however, also acknowledged that India is a longstanding parliamentary democracy with a bi-cameral Parliament and an independent judiciary, that the Indian Constitution provides for civil rights and liberties which the Government generally respects in practice. It also made favourable comments about the work of the National Human Rights Commission and other independent human rights organisations operating throughout most of the country. The Report, a tabulation of US perception of human rights in countries across the world, is prepared annually under the requirement of US law.

(c) Government considers the Report as an internal exercise of the US Government and rejects the criticisms contained therein.