

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7432
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002
ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE BY US CUSTOMS SERVICES
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the United States Customs Services have decided to open office in New Delhi as part of their global effort to curb terrorism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which it will help both the countries to curb terrorism?

Answer

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

- (a) The United States requested approval of the Government of India to open a United States Customs Service Office at their Embassy in New Delhi;
- (b)&(c) Government of India's approval to the proposal was conveyed in October 2001 with the decision that the initial point of contact for the U.S. Customs Service Office would be the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India and that it would not conduct independent investigations or otherwise act outside the liaison function. The duties of the Office are to be parallel to those currently performed by the Indian DRI office in Consulate General of India, New York.
- (d) The arrangement would further strengthen the cooperation between India and the United States in dealing with economic crimes and matters relating to the financing of terrorism.