

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:963  
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000  
ISI ACTIVITIES FROM NEPAL AND BANGLADESH  
RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE

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

- (a) whether ISI has set up a branch office in Kathmandu from where the hijackers boarded the Indian Airlines flight No. IC 814 and that they were clearly helped by the employees of local Pakistan's Embassy;
- (b) whether ISI is carrying on its activities in Bangladesh also;
- (c) if so, whether the Indian Government has taken up the matter with these Governments; and
- (d) if so, the response received from these Governments so far?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) The Government of India is aware and concerned about the ISI misusing the Nepalese territory and the open India-Nepal border for activities inimical to India's interest. Reports received by the Government indicate evidence of the complicity of the local Pakistani Embassy in Kathmandu in facilitating such activities. There have also been reports suggesting that the hijackers of the Indian Airlines flight no. IC-814 were helped by the Embassy. The nature and extent of Pakistani Embassy's involvement in the hijacking incident is currently under investigation.

(b), (c) & (d) The Government of India is also aware of the ISI indulging in activities directed against India across the India-Bangladesh border. Measures have been taken to enhance cooperation with Nepal and Bangladesh in this regard. Joint Working Groups have been set up with both countries for enhancing cooperation for effective border management. The problems faced in the management of the India-Nepal and India-Bangladesh borders have been discussed with the Nepalese and Bangladesh authorities respectively at various levels.

As far as the India-Bangladesh border is concerned, a series of measures are also being taken internally to enhance security. These include, inter alia, raising of additional battalions of the Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on land and the riverine border, and an accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing.

As regards the India-Nepal border, historically, this has been an open border with a visa-free travel regime. In view of the misuse of this open border for staging anti-India activities, the concerned agencies of His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of India remain in regular touch, both directly and through bilateral institutional mechanisms, such as the Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary level talks. Periodic meetings between the two sides are also held to review the situation and jointly coordinate measures, including stepping up vigil along the contiguous border districts of India and Nepal, to counter activities directed against India.

The issue relating to the curbing of ISI activities from Nepalese territory and management of the open Indo-Nepal border was raised during the State Visit of His Majesty the King of Nepal to India in January 1999 and also during the visit of our External Affairs Minister to Nepal in September 1999. Shared concern on this matter was evident from the determination expressed by both sides to take urgent necessary steps to control misuse of the open border between the two countries. On their part, His Majesty's Government of Nepal have assured that their territory would not be used for activities inimical to India's interest and have been extending their cooperation to the Government of India in this regard.