

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:183

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000

HIJACKING OF INDIAN AIRLINES PLANE

BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL);DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Airlines flight was hijacked in December, 1999 mainly because of the presence of an ISI base in Nepal;
- (b) whether like the Government of Pakistan, the Government of Afghanistan did not cooperate in freeing the hostages;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the countries and international fora where the Indian Government has raised this issue;
- (e) whether international organisations and other countries have condemned Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nepal in this matter;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; (g) the effective steps being taken by the Government to check the damage being caused to the country by ISI and other countries; and (h) the steps taken to throw out ISI from the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a)-(h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in parts (a) to (h) of the answer to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 183 To be answered on 8.3.2000

(a) Government are aware of and concerned about Pakistan's intelligence agency, Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), misusing the territories of Nepal for activities inimical to India's interests. Credible reports received by Government also reveal the complicity of the Pakistan Embassy in Kathmandu in the facilitation of activities inimical to India's interests. These include reports of assistance received by hijackers of Indian Airlines IC-814 from Pakistani diplomatic personnel based in Kathmandu.

(b)-(c) The Taliban authorities in Afghanistan, while adopting an attitude of correct facilitators, consistently and clearly had their sympathies with the hijackers and their other supporters, and acted accordingly.

(d)-(f) An exercise to inform international public opinion was put into operation immediately after the hijacking of IC-814 occurred. The Minister of External Affairs personally contacted his counterparts in the international community. This included his counterparts in the neighbouring countries, member countries in the UN Security Council and Foreign Ministers of Governments of nationals on board the aircraft. The Foreign Secretary also spoke to some of his counterparts and to heads of diplomatic missions in New Delhi. All our foreign interlocutors expressed their support as also their understanding of the difficult choices that the Government of India faced while dealing with the incident. This was further elaborated in official statements issued by several foreign governments, which left no doubt that the hijacking represented an unacceptable act of international terrorism. Government also raised the matter with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) with a view to bring to the attention of the member countries the need to adopt appropriate measures to apprehend and extradite the hijackers to India. The hijacking incident has highlighted to the international community evidence of Pakistan's continued state sponsorship of terrorism and its attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of India. There is also a better appreciation of the impact this has on the security of the country and the region. This concern is now reflected in both official statements by several Governments and in the coverage by the international media.

(g)-(h) Government remains firm in its resolve to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country and to combat all forms of terrorism.