

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6903
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2000
ARREST OF HIJACKERS
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI;TARUN GOGOI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

to reply given to unstarred question No. 186 answered on February 24, 2000 and state:

- (a) the date on which the Government of India asked Pakistan to handover the hijackers to India;
- (b) the reaction of Pakistan thereto; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government of India now when Pakistan has not taken any action in this regard so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) On 15th January 2000, Government handed over a formal communication to the Government of Pakistan providing evidence of the involvement of Pakistani nationals in the hijacking of IC-814. Pakistan was also reminded, that as a signatory to several international conventions against terrorism, as also the Simla Agreement of 1972 and the Lahore Declaration, it has an international obligation to take the hijackers into custody and to extradite them to India. This was reiterated in a subsequent communication, handed over to the Government of Pakistan on 4th February 2000.

(b) The Government of Pakistan, in its response, has reiterated its general position that it would undertake to apprehend and prosecute any person or persons found on its territory, or Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir, who may be suspected of having committed offences, related to hijacking. As they have at the same time rejected our demarche, Pakistan's general commitment has to be assessed accordingly.

(c) The hijacking of IC-814 has made stronger Government's resolve to combat the menace posed by Pakistan's state sponsorship of cross-border terrorism and continued efforts to interfere in the internal affairs of India. Government also continues to take all necessary measures to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.