

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4793

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003

EXPULSION OF IRAQI DIPLOMATS

CHANDRA NATH SINGH;GADDE RAMAMOCHAN;JAGMEET SINGH BRAR;KAILASH MEGHWAL;M.V.V.S MURTHI;NMEDITA MANE;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK;VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

-

(a) whether the U. S. administration had requested for the expulsion of three Iraqi diplomats from India as reported in the Economic Times dated March 15, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons cited by U.S. for such a request; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government in the said matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Yes. The U.S. Government had made a request for expulsion of Iraqi diplomats from India.

(b) The request was made on the ground of perceived threat by the United States to U.S. diplomatic personnel and facilities in India. It is understood that the United States made a similar request to a number of countries that host Iraq diplomatic missions.

(c) Accredited diplomats are expelled if they engage in activities incompatible with their diplomatic status. Since there was no evidence of such conduct on the part of Iraqi diplomats in India, Government took no action on the U.S. request.