

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2553
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2003
SMUGGLING OF DRUGS BY FOREIGNERS
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Foreigners smuggling drugs has customs worried' published in the Hindustan Times dated 5 February, 2003;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government are considering to review immunity available to diplomats involved in smuggling; and
- (e) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (REVENUE) IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE & COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): A Nigerian national named Chienedue Harrison departing by an Ethiopian Airline flight at IGI Airport, New Delhi on 31.1.2003 was intercepted, and search of his baggage resulted in the recovery of 1090 Gms. of heroin found concealed in the lining of his suitcase. Earlier on 27.1.2003 another Nigerian national, Olayanki Suleiman Habib arriving from Nigeria by an Ethiopian Airline flight was intercepted and search of his baggage resulted in the recovery of about 500 Gms. of Cocaine. Both passengers were arrested.

(c): The Department is keeping vigil on the suspects and surveillance in respect of sensitive flights has been stepped up.

(d) & (e): In accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961, without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, it is the duty of all diplomats enjoying such privileges and immunities to respect the laws & regulations of the receiving state. The immunity under Article 37 may be waived by the sending states on the request of the receiving state. Whenever there are cases where diplomats are found to be abusing diplomatic privileges/facilities, the missions concerned are advised to waive the immunity/withdraw the diplomat in question.