

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1480  
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003  
INTERNATIONAL DALIT CONFERENCE  
PRABHA RAU;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

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

- (a) whether the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh had sought the clearance of the Union Government for his participation in the International Dalit Conference held at Vancouver, Canada;
- (b) if so, whether the permission was not granted by the Government;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the invitation for participation in the said conference was received by any other Minister or NGO; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Yes.

(c) Political clearance is accorded by the Government after taking into consideration several factors, including the guidelines laid down by the Government of India for this purpose; the functional justification for the visit; the background and antecedents of the organisers; and recommendation from our mission concerned. The invitation from the International Dalit Conference to the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh failed to meet any of the above criteria.

(d) & (e) Government is not concerned with political clearance for invitations extended to non-governmental organisations. A member of the Union Council of Ministers who received the invitation did not participate in the event, in accordance with the guidelines for ministerial participation in conferences abroad.