

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:368

ANSWERED ON:25.07.2000

VISIT OF DELEGATION TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

JAGMEET SINGH BRAR;JASWANT SINGH YADAV;KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;NAWAL KISHORE RAI;P.D. ELANGOVA;PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;SHYAMA SINGH;UTTAMRAO NATHUJI DHIKALE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a high level delegation recently visited Israel, Britain and France;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the main issues discussed during the visit and the decisions arrived at;
- (c) the details of MoUs signed during the visit;
- (d) the time by which these MoUs are likely to be implemented; and
- (e) the total amount likely to be spent on their implementation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)&(b): The Union Home Minister led a delegation comprising of the Union Home Secretary, Directors of Intelligence Bureau and Central Bureau of Investigation, Director General of Border Security Force and Joint Secretary (Security) to Israel, France and the United Kingdom from 14th June to 24th June, 2000 . A visit was made to Gaza (Palestine) on 17th June to meet President Yasser Arafat. The tour was undertaken with the primary objective of discussing the problem of international terrorism and exploring the possibility of bilateral co-operation in fighting the menace.

In Israel, the delegation interacted with president Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Ehud Barak, Minister for Regional Co-operation Shimon Peres, Deputy Minister of Defence Ephriam Sneh, and Police and Security agencies. The visit has opened up the possibility of increased technological, technical and intelligence co-operation between India and Israel. The two sides have agreed to work for early establishment of a Joint Working Group between the two countries.

In France the delegation met the Minister of Interior, Mr. Jean-Pierre Chevenement. As a result of this meeting, France has agreed to support India`s draft UN Resolution against sponsorship of international terrorism. India, for its part, will support the French draft resolution against financing of terrorism. It has also been agreed to set up a joint working group between the two countries on counter terrorism. The delegation also visited the INTERPOL Headquarters at Lyon and held discussions on the problems of fake currency, money laundering and other trans-national crimes.

In U.K., the delegation held meetings with Mr. Jack Straw, Secretary of State for Home Affairs and Mr. Robin Cook, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. In these meetings, India`s concern over cross border terrorism was idscussed in detail. In was agreed that there was an urgent need to build up world opinion against terrorism. India`s suggestion to have an institutionalised arrangement of a joint working group for combating terrorism was welcomed as such an arrangement will send a good message to the international community and put sponsor States to shame.

(c),(d) and (e): No Memorandum of Understanding was signed during this tour. Therefore, the question of time and expenditure for its implementation does not arise.