

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2392
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003
GLOBAL DHARMA CONFERENCE
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have cleared the foreign visit of the Union Minister for Human Resource Development to attend the Global Dharma Conference being organised by the New Jersey based Dharma Conference Committee;
- (b) if so, the significance of this conference;
- (c) whether this Conference is a Ministerial level Conference; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for clearance of this visit of the Union Minister for Human Resource Development?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) & (d) The Global Dharma Conference was said to be a gathering of students, youth and scholars from around the world, including Indian students and youth outside of India and sought to convey to the youth and students living in the West, the philosophical and practical aspects of Dharma. The Conference had relevance to the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Conference was expected to be addressed by the Dalai Lama, Jagatguru Sri Shankaracharya, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and Pramaukh Swamiji through video conference. Other invitees mentioned by the organisers were Senator Mrs. Hillary Clinton, Governor McGreevy of New Jersey, Senator Frank Pallone and a former Canadian Prime Minister. Hon`ble Minister for Human Resource Development was the Chief Guest in the Conference.