

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:352
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003
ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT
ALAKESH DAS;MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian representative in the UN General Assembly raised the issue of the reported remark made by Israeli Dy. PM regarding intended assassination of Palestine President being an option; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) In a Statement at the U.N. Security Council on 15 September 2003, the Indian Permanent Representative referring to this issue inter alia stated "India has consistently regarded President Arafat as the elected leader of the Palestinian people and symbol of their cause. His expulsion and removal from the scene would be indefensible in international law. It represents an affront to the Palestinian people as well as the international community at large and must attract the severest condemnation world-wide. Apart from serving no constructive purpose, it would negate all efforts towards reconciliation. More important, it is likely to lead to an increased wave of anger and resultant violence in the region. Such a move is bound to exacerbate the situation and could prove politically counterproductive. It would definitely have a negative impact on the Middle East peace process".