

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3595
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000
UN CONTINGENT OPERATION IN SIERRA LEONE
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE;JAI BHADRA SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian peacekeepers detained by RUF rebels in Sierra Leone were rescued recently by a mixed UN contingent; and
- (b) if so, the details of the operation organised by it?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) The rescue operation to secure the freedom of movement of 221 Indian troops and 11 military observers held under siege by the RUF rebels in Kailahun (Sierra Leone) was launched by the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), under the command of Force Commander Major General V.K. Jetley on July 15 and successfully completed on July 16, 2000.

The operation was mainly conducted by the Indian troops, with the help of troops from Ghana and Nigeria and with logistic support provided by UK. The operation was decisive and all the UN peacekeepers were extricated. There was unfortunately one fatal casualty of an Indian soldier, Havildar Krishan Kumar. 7 Indian soldiers received minor injuries during the operation.