

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5863
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005
TORTURE OF INDIANS ABROAD
Hamza Shri T.K.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any specific procedure or officials appointed to look into the torture and other cases filed against the Indian citizens working abroad especially in Gulf countries and the United States of America;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether beheading of an Indian in Saudi Arabia and torture of an Indian woman in Dubai recently have come to the notice of the Government;
- (d) if so, whether these matters have been taken up with the concerned Governments and any probe conducted to unearth the truth;
- (e) if so , the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Officials have been specifically appointed who, inter alia, look into the criminal cases including torture filed against the Indian citizens. These officials interact with local authorities to look into individual cases, and invariably assist the victims in obtaining justice, in cooperation with the host Government. In cases where investigations through the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Interior reveal abuse, Mission/Post request the local Government to institute legal proceedings under their laws.

(c) (d) & (e) Yes, Sir. The capital punishment of beheading was awarded to Indian nationals on charges of drug trafficking/murder, after investigations under the laws of Saudi Arabia. The Mission had submitted Mercy Petitions to the highest authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as soon as intimation regarding award of capital punishment was received, and the matter constantly pursued with the local authorities. Except for three out of 49 cases during 1998-2005 which were sentenced for murder, all the other (46) executions had been on drug-related charges.

It has been reported by our Consulate General in Dubai that in March 2005, Mrs Soman Prabhakumari, who entered UAE on a babysitter's visa under the sponsorship of a UAE national residing in Sharjah, was subjected to physical abuse, torture by some gang, and then abandoned there. She was given all assistance for repatriation to India. The Consulate General also contacted the Dubai Police and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for investigation and necessary action against the offenders.

(f) Does not arise.