

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2160

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005

ALLEGED MURDER OF INDIAN WORKER IN AFGHANISTAN

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar;Munshiram Shri ;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Shahid Shri Mohammed;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an employee of the Border Roads Organisation of India, engaged in the construction of roads in Afghanistan, had been kidnapped and killed by alleged Taliban militants;
- (b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the number of Indian employees kidnapped in Afghanistan during the last three years;
- (e) whether the Union Government has discussed this matter with Afghanistan;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) the total number of Indian companies/Indians working in Afghanistan at present; and
- (h) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure the safety of these Indian companies/Indians?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [SHRI E. AHAMED]

(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) Yes. The Afghan Government is investigating the matter. The Indian Embassy in Kabul is in touch with Afghan Government to monitor the progress of the case.

(d) Two Indian employees were kidnapped on December 6, 2003 and one was kidnapped on November 19, 2005.

(e) - (f) Yes. Indian Government through its Embassy in Kabul is in constant touch with the Afghan Government, including at the highest level and has offered all assistance in the investigation.

(g) In addition to Government of India establishments, there are 21 Indian public and private sector companies in Afghanistan. According to information available, 1337 Indians are presently working in these companies, in Government of India establishments, in international organizations and in foreign companies in Afghanistan.

(h) A security advisory containing appropriate guidelines is being issued by the Embassy of India in Kabul to the organizations/companies in which Indians are working. In cases of specific perception of threat, the local Government is approached to provide security.