

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4237

ANSWERED ON:21.12.2005

MANDATORY WEARING OF HELMETS BY SIKHS IN CANADA

Pathak Shri Brajesh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Sikh drivers of Pacific Railways of Canada are required to wear helmets instead of their turbans;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government has taken up this matter with Canada; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of Canadian Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) The Canadian Pacific Railways issued a memo on 1st August 2005 stating that Canadian Pacific Railway would enforce a rule requiring drivers to wear hard hats. This was followed by a stoppage of work in late August 2005. Subsequently the company has temporarily suspended the enforcement of the memo until a resolution is reached. The Canadian Pacific Railway plans to hold negotiations with Sikh truck drivers with a view to resolving differences regarding the hardhat rules.

(b)&(c) As the matter is under negotiations between the Canadian Pacific Railways and Sikh community, it may be premature for Government of India to make any demarche with Government of Canada regarding this matter.