

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:490
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2004
RALLY AGAINST TORTURE ON IRAQIS
Hasan Chaudhary Munawwar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there was a big rally in New Delhi on 20th June, 2004 against the USA for atrocities perpetrated on Iraqis and for ruining of religious places there; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government therefore ?

Answer

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

(a) Yes.

(b) The Government is concerned at the violation of international conventions and norms by some members of the US forces in Iraq in dealing with Iraqi people and has taken note of the punitive and preventive measures taken by the US Government in this regard. The Government has also noted with concern the violation of the sanctity of holy places in Iraq and has emphasized the imperative need to respect the sanctity of the places of religious worships by all the concerned in Iraq.