

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1040
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2010
INDIANS ARRESTED BY CHINA
Deora Shri Milind Murli;Muttermwar Shri Vilas Baburao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 21 Indians were arrested by China in January 2010;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of assistance provided/being provided to the arrested persons by the Indian Embassy in China;
- (d) whether the said arrests are interlinked with any such cases in India or China; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) to (c) Twenty one Indian nationals were detained on 8 January 2010 by the Anti-Smuggling Bureau of the Shenzhen Customs for illegal transportation of diamonds from Hong Kong to Shenzhen under the Criminal Procedure Law of the Peoples' Republic of China. Consular access was provided to the Consulate General of India (CGI), Guangzhou on 13 and 14 January, 2010 and then again on 29 January, 2010. The detainees were found in good health. The Consulate General is in constant contact with the law firm which has been arranged to provide legal assistance to the Indian nationals. The Chinese authorities informed the CGI, Guangzhou on 11 February, 2010 that pursuant to the preliminary investigation, 20 of the detainees have been arrested for diamond smuggling activity and one has been arrested for money laundering.

(d) to (e) No. Does not arise.