

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2360
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010
U.S. EMBASSY MEMBERS VISIT TO KASHMIR
Haque Shri Sk. Saidul

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a high powered two member team from the US Embassy in New Delhi went to meet separatist leaders in Kashmir Valley;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some diplomats from UK and European Union go to Kashmir on a regular basis to meet the separatist leaders;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has raised this issue with the concerned countries; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

- (a) & (b): The Ministry is aware of the visit of two officials from the US Embassy in New Delhi to Jammu and Kashmir in October 2010.
- (c) & (d): The Ministry facilitates annual visits of representatives of European Union countries to Jammu and Kashmir since 1994. During the visits, the delegations meet representatives of State Government, political parties, civil society and actors in economic and development sector.
- (e) & (f): Foreign diplomats are permitted to visit unrestricted areas of the country, including in Jammu and Kashmir. They are, however, advised to adhere to diplomatic norms and to be fully sensitive to the situation in the areas concerned during such visits.