

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2655
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2011
REMOVING OF TURBANS
Badal Harsimrat Kaur

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention is drawn to the increasing number of incidents at airports worldwide including US and Europe regarding forcible removal of turban of Sikhs in the name of security frisking; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to deal with the situation?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Government's attention has been drawn to incidents in some countries where Indian nationals, who follow the Sikh faith, have been asked at airports to remove their turbans for security checks. In its interaction with concerned foreign governments, it has been emphasized that security checks need to be carried out in a manner that ensures the dignity of Indian nationals and that full respect has to be shown to their faith. It has also been emphasized that if turbans are to be checked then such checks need to be carried out in private spaces at the airport and no force should be used.