

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:315  
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2011  
BAN ON TURBANS IN FRANCE  
Badal Harsimrat Kaur

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the issue of not allowing turban in schools by the French government has been taken up by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the reaction of the French Government thereto; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes.

(b) This issue has been raised with the French Government from time to time, including at the highest level by the Prime Minister in his meeting with the French President on 30th September 2008. Most recently, it was raised by the External Affairs Minister during his meeting with the French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe on 20th October, 2011 in New Delhi.

The French Government has clarified that its domestic law bans display of any religion-connected symbols in public school and is non-discriminatory as it applies to people of all religions living in France. Nevertheless, we continue to raise the matter at various levels at appropriate fora.

(c) Not Applicable.