

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:384

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012

DEVELOPMENTS IN MALDIVES

Gavit Shri Manikrao Hodlya;Mohan Shri P. C.;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao;Viswanathan Shri P.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the recent developments in Maldives;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the extent to which the change of power in Maldives is likely to affect India in region;
- (d) the action taken by the Government with regard to safety and security of Indians living in Maldives in the wake of the recent developments;
- (e) whether any contingent plan chalked out to evacuate tourists and Indian citizens from Maldives;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the Indian interests in future?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) The Government has been closely monitoring the recent developments in Maldives. In a statement issued on 7 February 2012, Government highlighted that the transfer of power to a new President was an internal matter to be resolved by the Maldivians in a peaceful and democratic manner. During a telephonic conversation with the President of Maldives, the Prime Minister conveyed that India had always stood ready to provide any support or assistance that the people of the Maldives might require. On his part, The President of Maldives reaffirmed the special and close ties that Maldives has with India. Special envoy of the Prime Minister visited Maldives on 10-11 February 2012 to assess the situation. As part of diplomatic initiative, Foreign Secretary visited Maldives on 15-16 February 2012 and 28-29 February 2012 to facilitate a way forward in the situation.

The Government is in regular touch with the Government of Maldives with regard to the safety and security of the Indian nationals and its interests in Maldives. No reports have been received indicating that safety and security of Indians in Maldives have been adversely affected.

(e) to (g) Does not arise.