

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1322
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012
TOUGH VISA REGIME
Upadhyay Seema,Verma Smt. Usha

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any cases of protest and raising anti-India slogans by the foreigner(s) against the stringent Indian visa rules have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by his Ministry in this regard and the seriousness with which the government there has viewed this incident?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) A group of women belonging to the Ukrainian activist group "Femen" climbed into the balcony of the Embassy Residence in Kyiv on 18th January 2012 and protested against the alleged tightening of visa procedures for Ukrainian women by unfurling banners with anti-India slogans, throwing down the Indian flag and raising anti-India slogans. The Ukrainian authorities were immediately informed about the incident and the activists were detained.

(c) The Government of India immediately instructed the Mission to take up the matter with the Ukrainian authorities to take appropriate action so as to prevent the recurrence of such an event. The Government of Ukraine expressed its regrets at the incident and has conveyed that criminal proceedings have been initiated against the activists under the Criminal Code of Ukraine.