

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2430
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2012
SIKH TURBAN
Badal Harsimrat Kaur

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that in the name of security frisking, Sikhs travelling worldwide are forced to remove their turbans or else asked not to travel;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that as per international law Sikhs cannot be forced to remove the turban;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) The Government is aware of the problems being faced by Sikh passengers in some of the airports, particularly in Europe and the USA. The Government has taken up the matter strongly with the concerned Governments by pointing out that during security checks, airport security officials should be sensitive to the specific requirements of adherents to the Sikh faith; ensure that the dignity of Sikh passengers travelling overseas, as also others, is protected; and respect the cultural and religious sensitivities of all travellers. The concerned Governments have acknowledged the need for effective aviation security measures taking into account the dignity of the individual travellers concerned.