

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4247

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012

HARASSMENT OF INDIAN NATIONALS AT US AIRPORTS

Antony Shri Anto; Chauhan Shri Sanjay Singh; Singh Shri Vijay Bahadur

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

- (a) whether the immigration officials in America delayed giving clearance to Indian citizens recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of occasions eminent citizens of India have had to submit to frisking by American officials during the last three years;
- (d) whether the Government has registered a protest with and sought the details of such incidents from America;
- (e) if so, the reasons for occurrence of such incidents; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (f) The Government is aware that Indian citizens, including visiting Indian dignitaries, have been subjected to extended review by U.S. immigration officials on arrival in the United States or enhanced security procedures at the time of departure from U.S. airports. Such instances include the recent delay in immigration clearance faced by Shri Shahrukh Khan at the White Plains Airport, New York on 12 April 2012. However, the U.S. Customs & Border Protection officials took immediate steps to clear Mr. Khan following intervention by the Consulate General of India in New York and also conveyed their sincere apologies for the inconvenience caused to Mr. Khan.

The Government has used every opportunity, including during the India-U.S. Aviation Security Group meeting, to stress that while it respects the right of every country to institute necessary security procedures at their airports, it should be done in a manner that does not cause inconvenience to bona fide passengers, takes into account internationally recognised diplomatic courtesies and privileges, and is sensitive to cultural and religious sentiments of travellers. The U.S. Government has expressed regret for these incidents and has conveyed that it will seek to avoid similar incidents in the future.