

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:84

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

ATTACK ON INDIAN EMBASSY IN KABUL

Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian embassy in Kabul was attacked recently by a suicide car bomber;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of casualties and loss of property;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up the issue with the Government of Afghanistan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government of Afghanistan thereto;
- (e) whether the Government of India has conducted any investigation into the said incident;
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against those held responsible for the attack;
- (g) the details of the terrorist attacks on Indian Embassy in Afghanistan till date during the last three years; and
- (h) the steps taken by the Government of India to ensure safety and security of the Indians working in Afghanistan?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR.SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) to (h) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (H) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.84 REGARDING "ATTACK ON INDIAN EMBASSY IN KABUL" FOR ANSWER ON 25.11.2009

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. On October 8, 2009 at 0827 hours, a suicide bomber, in a Toyota four wheel drive, detonated his Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) alongside the perimeter of the Chancery at the barrier on a side lane. This resulted in 18 deaths and approximately 83 persons were injured. The dead included three Afghan National Police personnel, while those injured included two of our security personnel on duty within the Chancery who suffered minor shrapnel injuries. There were no Indian fatalities. Wooden doors, panels and glass panes, on both floors of the Chancery building were extensively damaged due to the shock wave of the explosion which is estimated to have been caused by the detonation of about 150 kg. of explosives.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken up the issue with the Government of Afghanistan. The Afghan authorities have put in place appropriate safety and security measures for the protection of the Indian Embassy and its personnel.

(e) & (f) Investigations into the attack on the Embassy of India in Kabul on October 8, 2009 are ongoing.

(g) There have been two attacks on the Indian Embassy in Kabul in the last three years. On July 7, 2008 a suicide bomber detonated his Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) at the main gate of the Embassy of India in Kabul in which 59 persons were killed including four Indian officials and a local driver. More than 150 persons, including 5 ITBP personnel were seriously injured in the incident. The details of the second attack on the Embassy on October 8, 2009 have been furnished above.

(h) All necessary precautions are being taken to provide the best possible security to the Indian Mission and its four Consulates in Afghanistan, in cooperation with the Afghan National Security Forces. In addition, the Embassy of India sends security advisories to Indian nationals in Afghanistan on a regular basis, especially when it receives information concerning impending threats, advising them to take security precautions and to maintain extra vigil. Moreover, for projects being undertaken under Government of India's assistance programmes, effective and regular liaison is maintained with the concerned agencies of the Afghan government, which provides the requisite security and support to the project personnel in coordination with the provincial authorities.