

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:211  
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2014  
DIPLOMATIC ROW WITH USA  
Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Upadhyay Seema

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

- (a) whether any Indian diplomat has been arrested/ill treated in the United States of America (USA) in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up the issue with the Government of USA and if so, the reaction of the Government of USA thereto;
- (d) whether the said incident has affected the progress in the diplomatic/ friendly ties between India and the USA; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to resolve the diplomatic row and its current status?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 211 REGARDING "DIPLOMATIC ROW WITH USA" FOR ANSWER ON 05.02.2014

(a) & (b) On 12 December 2013, Dr. Devyani Khobragade, Acting Consul General of India in New York, was arrested by officers of the Diplomatic Security Service of the US State Department on charges of 'visa fraud' and 'false statement.' Dr. Khobragade was handcuffed, strip-searched, fingerprinted by US law enforcement authorities, who claimed it was part of their normal procedures, and was later released by a US Court on bail.

(c) The Government took up this issue with the US Government; we conveyed our strong objection to both the arrest of Dr. Khobragade and the manner in which action was taken. The US Government has expressed that it regretted the incident. Dr. Khobragade returned to India on 10 January 2014 after the US granted her full diplomatic immunity.

(d) & (e) Although India has expressed serious concern and outrage at the incident, it is also recognized that India and the US have a multi-faceted strategic partnership. Neither side sees this as a 'single issue' relationship. For this reason, both sides have agreed to work to address the issues arising as a result of the arrest of Dr. Devyani Khobragade, including to negotiate India's demand for the dropping of all charges against Dr. Khobragade. Towards this end, the two countries have agreed to initiate a dialogue to address all aspects related to diplomatic privileges and immunities in a mutually acceptable manner. At the same time, both sides have agreed to continue to implement other programmes of bilateral cooperation.