

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3499
ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014
SHIFTING OF INDIA S DELEGATE TO UNO
Sivakumar Alias J.K. Ritheesh Shri K.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Devyani Khobragade has been shifted to India's Permanent Mission in the United Nations;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to conduct any departmental enquiry about the visa fraud charges framed by the USA against her and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the action taken by the Government so far in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government plans to send her back to the US after some time; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) Yes. The transfer of Dr. Devyani Khobragade (IFS: 1999) from Consulate General of India, New York to Permanent Mission of India to United Nations, New York in December 2013 was on functional grounds in public interest.
- (c) & (d) The visa fraud charges are brought against the officer by the US Federal Government. However, the Government of India believes that disputes between India-based Domestic Assistants and the officers posted in Indian Diplomatic Missions/Posts abroad come under the exclusive jurisdiction of Indian courts of law and should be settled as per Indian laws.
- (e) & (f) Transfers & postings of officers to Indian Diplomatic Missions/Posts abroad are decided in public interest.