

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4087  
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014  
ARREST OF INDIAN DIPLOMAT  
Nirupam Shri Sanjay Brijkishorilal

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

- (a) whether charges were framed against an Indian Diplomat and ex-Deputy Consul General of India in New York by the United States of America;
- (b) if so, the details and the current status thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that the diplomat was arrested on road by the US authorities, hand cuffed, subjected to strip and cavity search and kept in a Cell with drug peddlers and sex workers and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is also true that she was framed in false allegations; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Dr. Devyani Khobragade, Acting Consul General of India in New York, was indicted by a Grand Jury in the US District Court Southern District of New York on 9 January 2014 on charges of 'visa fraud' and 'false statement.' The Government transferred Dr. Khobragade to the Indian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York to safeguard her from further legal issues in the U.S. The U.S. side eventually provided her full diplomatic immunity, enabling her to return to India, although the case remained in court. On 14 January 2014, Dr. Khobragade's lawyer filed a motion in the U.S. Court seeking dismissal of the case and termination of any future legal action against her on the grounds of diplomatic immunity. The court in the U.S. is yet to decide on the motion.

(c) On 12 December 2013, Dr. Devyani Khobragade was arrested in New York by officers of the Diplomatic Security Service of the U.S. State Department on a street in front of her daughter's school in Manhattan, New York. She was later handcuffed, strip-searched, fingerprinted and placed in a holding cell with other detainees by U.S. Marshalls before being taken to a US Court, where she was released on bail. The US authorities claim that Dr. Khobragade was treated as per their normal procedures.

(d) & (e) The Government has conveyed to the U.S. Government its strong objection to the arrest of Dr. Khobragade and the manner in which action was taken. The Government has demanded dropping of all charges against Dr. Khobragade. The U.S. Government has expressed regret at this incident. The two countries have since agreed to initiate an official dialogue to comprehensively address all aspects related to the case against Dr. Khobragade and all issues arising from differing perspectives on diplomatic privileges and immunities.