

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4262

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009

UAE AIRCRAFT IN INDIAN AIR SPACE

Adityanath Shri Yogi; Jagannath Dr. M.; Kumar Shri Shailendra; Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao; Namdhari Shri Inder Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an aircraft of United Arab Emirates (UAE) air force and its nine crew members were detained for allegedly carrying arms and ammunition without declaring the nature of the cargo;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the UAE in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the UAE in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) Yes.

(b) On August 25, 2009, UAE Embassy in New Delhi had requested Ministry of External Affairs for Political clearance for a non scheduled halt of flight UAF-1211 (TYPE C 130H for overflying & refueling on sectors Abu Dhabi- Calcutta- Xaiyang- Calcutta- Abu Dhabi. As per details in the application there was no mention of any arms or ammunition being carried on board. Accordingly the permission was granted. The flight (TYPE -C130 H) arrived from Abu Dhabi at Calcutta Airport on 6th September 2009 at 1730 hrs as a non Scheduled flight. The captain of the flight, Major Ibrahim Al Shamsei, filed a declaration to the customs stating that the flight was carrying Arms/ammunition/explosives. However, since at the time of initial application, no mention of the arms/ammunition was made, the authorities at the Calcutta airport detained the aircraft & crew members for further investigation. Accordingly, after concurrence of the pilot-in-Command of the aircraft, the customs officials entered the aircraft to inquire about the nature of cargo.

(c) Yes.

(d) The UAE authorities formally regretted the omission in not clearly indicating items carried by the aircraft & described it as a "technical error". They also provided the details of the cargo subsequently which consisted of parts of missiles.