

Title:Need to undertake a special Air India Flight to Iraq as a gesture of goodwill to the Iraqi people-laid.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): People of Iraq have suffered immensely because of onerous sanctions against Iraq. At last the world community has come to realize that the country deserves a better deal, particularly because it has observed and respected all the conditions imposed upon it. Sanctions have led to untold misery and sorrow with continuing deaths of innocent citizens for lack of adequate medical facilities and food denied to them.

Since ban on civilian flights was not strictly stipulated, many countries have gone ahead to undertake flights to Iraq with academicians, social workers and doctors, etc. on board as a mark of solidarity with the people. When the Iraqi Vice-President visits India this week, we should also demonstrate our solidarity and good will for the people of Iraq by undertaking a special Air India flight to Iraq. Many citizens will come forward to bear their own expenses. I urge the Government to take this initiative immediately as a follow up of the visits of our Minister for External Affairs to Iraq and of Iraqi Vice-President to India.