

r>**Title:** In response to the submission made by Shri Sharad Pawar regarding assault on an Indian Diplomat, Shri B.S. Rawat in Islamabad, the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs made a statement. 12.01 hrs.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI): Mr. Speaker Sir, I just want to raise a small but very important issue. It is reported day before yesterday that an Indian Diplomat, Shri Rawat had been beaten in Islamabad.

This is not the first instance of its kind in Pakistan. It is the responsibility of the respective Government to provide full security and protection to all diplomats. But this is happening. The action against Shri Rawat was uncivilised and criminal. I think, it is high time that the Government of India took note of this particular incident very seriously and if possible, the hon. Minister should make a statement on this.

">THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): Sir, in reply to what the Leader of Opposition has just now said, I would like to make a statement.

Shri B.S. Rawat, Attache in our High Commission in Islamabad was assaulted and badly beaten in front of his residence in Islamabad on the morning of May 31, 1998. Shri Rawat was walking from his residence to the house of his colleague when an individual, purportedly a Security Guard of a neighbouring house accosted him and beaten up with a lathi.

Shri Rawat suffered serious injuries including head injury and fractures in both of his arms. He has been hospitalised and is recovering. The circumstances of the assault are very disturbing.

The High Commissioner of Pakistan was summoned to the Foreign Officer yesterday. Our Foreign Secretary lodged a strong protest at this very serious and abnormal incident which is completely unacceptable. The High Commissioner has been told that the security of our Mission is the responsibility of Pakistan and clearly the Pakistani authorities failed in providing the required security because of which this incident occurred. The High Commissioner was asked to convey our protest to his Government and it is demanded that Pakistan ensures that full security is provided to our Mission personnel. The Pakistan High Commissioner, while stating that his Government was providing security to our personnel and that this incident was only an individual occurrence, expressed regret. He also assured that a full investigation would take place.

The security foundation in Pakistan remains a matter of concern. We will continue to demand of Pakistan that it fulfilled its obligations under International Conventions and the bilateral code of conduct in ensuring full security to our Mission in Islamabad.
