

MR. SPEAKER : Is the aid from the Ministry of Health welcome ?

AN. HON. MEMBER : Aid for AIDS !

MUFTI MOHD. SYED : There is a problem for us. Is it humanly possible to have medical examination of all foreign tourists who come here ? I do not think, it is humanly possible.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Very soon, Goa is going to hold Carnival. There are two views whether Carnival should be held in Goa or not. Some people say that it depicts something which is not the culture of India. Still some private organisations come and they hold carnival show in Goa. What is the view of the Government of India or the Ministry of Tourism as far as the holding of carnival in Goa is concerned ?

MUFTI MOHD. SYED : I do not think we should have any objection to that.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Sir, in Goa, many tourists are coming from foreign countries. Similar climatic conditions are there in Trivandrum and Cochin and also, as in Goa, there are beaches like Kovalam and also such other areas where tourism can be developed.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Also Konkani area.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Also Konkani area. So, will the Government consider a proposal to see that the tourists arriving in Goa on account of the beach and all that—a number of tourists are arriving there—are taken to the southern parts of the country and also to see that the tourism is developed in the beach area and also more flights are introduced and transportation modes are provided for taking these tourists to that side also ?

MUFTI MOHD. SYED : Sir, it is a fact that chartered flights are there for Goa. Goa, I think, has become a famous

destination and is known all over the world. Lot of people come there. Lot of foreign tourists come there. The same is the case with Kovalam where we have hundred per cent occupancy. Tourists are going to Trivandrum as well. But there is not enough infrastructure. So, the State Government is making some plans to build some more accommodation near Kovalam. The same is the case with other beaches.

Indians as hostages in Beirut

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*54 **SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :**

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some persons including a professor of Indian origin have been taken as hostage in Beirut by the terrorists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have established any contact with any country which could help securing their release; and

(d) if so, the success achieved in this regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 24th January 1987 a group of unidentified gunmen disguised in police uniforms came to the campus of Beirut University College and took away four professors including Dr. Mithileshwar Singh, an Indian passport holder who was the Head of the Department of Business Studies in the college. The other three hostages are US nationals. A group called the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping.

(c) and (d) Government has contacted and is energetically continuing with its efforts with all Governments and organisations which may have any influence with the kidnappers to secure the release of Dr. Mithileshwar Singh.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, has the Government been able to know the particular group of Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine which has got the custody of Dr. Mithileshwar Singh? Because there are several groups in the Islamic Jihad. One of them is Amal Shiite which is under the influence of Syria. Another group is under the influence of Iranian Government. So, I would like to know whether the Government has been able to identify the group having custody of these people and if so, whether they have requested the concerned Government to exercise their influence to secure release of Dr. Mithileshwar Singh, and also what has been their response.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : Sir, our Embassies have contacted all possible sources which are available publicly. We have contacted the Lebanese Government, the Syrian Government, the Government of Iran also, and Mr. Nabih Berri, the Lebanon's Justice Minister has issued an appeal to the kidnappers, especially asking them what is the justification for the detention of Dr. Mithileshwar Singh who holds an Indian passport. Huge advertisements have been placed in Lebanese papers emphasising that Dr. Singh is an Indian national. So, we are trying our level best to see that Dr. Mithileshwar Singh is released early.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Sir, my specific question was whether the Government has been able to know which group of Islamic Jihad is having the custody of Dr. Mithileshwar Singh because in that case it would be possible for the Government to hold discussions with the concerned group.

I would like to know whether the

Government has come across any news item that this Islam Group is now willing to release them very soon. What is the Government's information and what is the prospect of his release?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : Our report is that this group of the Islamic Jihad was previously un-known. This group is known as Islamic Jihad for liberation of Palestine. But as I said we have tried to get all the contacts that are possible with this group also.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Canada's restrictions on Indian Medical Graduates

*41. **SHRI G. BHOOPATHY :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that more than 100 Indian medical graduates who successfully passed the Canadian evaluation tests cannot practise in Canada;

(b) whether some of these medical graduates have been doing odd jobs as delivery boys, security guards and attendants at guests houses; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken by Government of India to help these medical graduates and encourage them to return to India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) Government are aware that some medical graduates from India and other countries who have successfully passed the Canadian evaluation test, find it difficult to get internship posts, which is one of the pre-requisites for practising in Canada.