

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 23.10.2008
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDE ATTACK ON INDIAN EMBASSY .

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Smt. Mohsina Kidwai

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether a large number of people including Indian diplomats were killed when a suicide bomber rammed into the gates of the Indian Embassy in Kabul on 7 July, 2008;
- (b) if so, the facts and details of casualties/loss of property, etc., held due to suicide bomb blast;
- (c) whether Government had sent a high level team for Kabul to review the situation arising out of the suicide attack; and
- (d) if so, the details of the report submitted by the team and steps taken by Government to provide adequate protection to Indian diplomats and their properties in foreign countries?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) & (b) On 7th July 2008, at 0831 local time, a vehicle borne improvised explosive device was exploded by a suicide bomber near the entrance gate of the Indian Embassy in Kabul. The attack resulted in the tragic deaths of Shri V.V. Rao, Counsellor, Brig. R.D. Mehta, Defence Attaché in the Embassy and their Afghan driver Mr. Neamatullah who were in an Embassy vehicle. Constable Ajay Singh Pathania (ITBP), Constable Roop Singh (ITBP) and 55 Afghan nationals (including 11 security personnel and 17 schoolchildren) were also killed. More than 150 persons received injuries. A large number of vehicles, both inside and outside the Chancery premises, were badly damaged. The Chancery building was also badly damaged. The attack on our Embassy was a dastardly terrorist attack perpetrated by the enemies of peace in Afghanistan and our region.

(c) & (d) Yes. A high-level team led by Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs visited Kabul from 7-10 July 2008. Foreign Secretary thereafter visited Kabul on 13-14 July 2008 along with other senior officers to review the situation arising out of the suicide attack. The security of the Embassy and its personnel has been augmented after the attack. The Afghan Government has been fully sensitised on providing adequate protection to Indian project workers and personnel in different parts of Afghanistan.