

UN Report on scam in Oil for Food Programme

180. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of news items published in a newspaper dated 30.10.2005 captioned "Saddam Scam: Natwar smells conspiracy in UN Report";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that a political party of the country has also been involved in the report; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government has seen news reports commenting on the fifth and final report of the Independent Inquiry Committee (IIC) headed by Mr. Paul Volcker, appointed by the UN Secretary General to inquire into the Oil-for-Food Programme (OFFP) in Iraq, which was released on October 27, 2005. The report consists of 623 pages and another 1083 pages of tables. A political party of the country is listed among non-contractual beneficiaries in the tables of the report.

The Government is determined to establish the facts in this matter and has set up an inquiry headed by Mr. Justice R.S. Pathak, former Chief Justice of India and former Judge of the International Court of Justice. The Government has also appointed Shri Virendra Dayal, former Under Secretary General of the United Nations as its Special Envoy to liaise with the United Nations Organisations and its Member States to gather relevant materials in connection with the report of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the Oil-for-Food Programme. The Special Envoy has the Full Power and Authority of the Government of India to execute the responsibilities entrusted to him.

Abductions of Hindus in Pakistan

181. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Hindu men and women are being kidnapped and their abductions have increased in Sindh (Pakistan);

(b) whether Government have taken up the matter with Pakistani counterpart;

- (c) if so, the reaction of Government of Pakistan in this regard; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) There have been some media reports of abductions and violence against citizens of Pakistan from minority groups, including Hindus. These reports have not been a part of bilateral issues discussed with Pakistan so far.

Indians in British jails

182. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian nationals, at present, in British jails;
- (b) the number, out of them, who have undergone the sentences awarded by courts but still not released; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to secure their release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected from our Mission in London and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Pre-conditions on Indo-US Nuclear Agreement

183. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the U.S. Administration has proposed a fresh set of pre-conditions for India to be fulfilled before the former could present the potential nuclear arrangement to the Congress for approval;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The U.S. Administration has not proposed any new norms regarding the nuclear deal with India. The implementation of the July 18 agreement would be guided fully and entirely by the commitments reflected in the Joint Statement only. A Working