

(b) No.

(c) Government does not take cognisance of an internal exercise of the U.S. Government and it has no bearing on Government's ability to deal with the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Extradition of Abu Salem

5056. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Portuguese Legal Authorities have told their Government that Abu Salem wanted in connection with 1993 Mumbai blasts can be deported to India;

(b) If so, how India is going to secure the return of Salem in the absence of an extradition treaty with Lisbon; and

(c) the details of the procedure to get around the legal requirements of an Extradition treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) Request for extradition of Abu Salem, who was arrested in Portugal in 2002 on the basis of an Interpol Red Corner Alert, is under consideration of the Portuguese authorities.

(b) and (c) Absence of Extradition Treaty does not bar consideration of an extradition request. In view of friendly relations with India, Portugal agreed to consider India's request for extradition of Abu Salem under its domestic laws

Malta Boat Tragedy

5057. SHRI B. P. SINGHAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of Malta Boat Tragedy that occurred on the 25th December, 1996 killing 3000 youths from India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government would release the list of the Indian victims and provide relief to their families; and

(c) if so, by when if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) Yes, but the total number of victims was estimated to be only 300.