

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1463
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003
AMERICAN WARSHIP AT COCHIN PORT
VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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- (a) whether an American warship returning from Iraq war was permitted entry into Cochin Port;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the duration of their stay at Cochin;
- (c) whether permitting this ship at Cochin was against the spirit of the country's stand on the Iraq war; and
- (d) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) & (b) Two U.S. naval vessels, USS Gary and USS Vandegrift, visited Cochin during 19-21 June 2003. According to the information provided by the U.S. Government, the ships made a normal rest and replenishment halt, following their deployment in support of U.S. operations in Afghanistan under Operation Enduring Freedom. The U.S. Government had taken prior approval of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.