

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:368
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003
DEROGATORY DEPICTION OF INDIAN GODS
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether an incident of depicting Hindu Gods/religious symbols on consumer goods in USA has come to the notice of the Government recently;
- (b) if so, whether any protest has been lodged with US Government; and
- (c) if so, the response of the US thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) In April 2003, an American company launched the sale of slippers bearing images of Lord Ganesha. India Cause, an organisation representing members of the Indian community in the United States of America, protested to the manufacturer of the slippers and asked the company to withdraw the product from the market. In response, the manufacturer apologised in writing and agreed to immediately withdraw the slippers from their stores, thereby resolving the matter to the satisfaction of all concerned.