

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:56

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006

ALLEGED KILLING OF INDIANS IN IRAQ

Bhadana Shri Avtar Singh;Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe;Sajjan Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a militant group 'Ansar al Sunna', an Al Qaeda linked group in Iraq claimed in September 2006 that it killed 10 Indians and Pakistanis when they were on their way to Syria;
- (b) if so, whether all deceased Indians have been identified by the Iraqi authorities and their families duly informed;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard;
- (d) whether the matter has been taken up with the Iraqi authorities and their response thereto; and
- (e) the manner in which compensation will be paid to families of those killed by militant groups abroad?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

- (a) No. On August 31, 2006 14 men including three Indian and eleven Pakistanis were killed by some unidentified attackers in Iraq while they were travelling from Damascus to Karbala.
- (b&c) They were identified by their relatives/fellow pilgrims travelling in the same group as Shri Jaffar Mashaddy from Nagaram near Vishakhapatnam, Shri Mohiyuddin Beg from Hyderabad, and Shri Mohamed Ahmed Ali from Hyderabad. The RPO in Hyderabad also got in touch with the relatives of the group involved in this incident.
- (d) The Iraqi authorities were informed about the incident by the Indian Embassy in Baghdad and they assured suitable assistance.
- (f) There is no policy for payment of compensation.