

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2313

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007

ABDUCTION OF INDIANS IN NIGERIA

Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh;Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the recent incidents of abductions of Indians in Nigeria;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken by the Government for the early release of the abducted Indians and also for the safety of the remaining Indians working and settled there;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

- (a) Yes.
- (b) From May 2006 till date, Eighteen (18) Indians were kidnapped by militants/criminal gangs in different parts of the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.
- (c) & (d) As soon as our High Commission in Nigeria learnt of the unfortunate incidents, demarches were made to concerned Nigerian authorities both at the high as well as operative levels and followed up with appropriate action. Consequently, the safe release of all Indian nationals was secured. In order to ensure the safety of the remaining Indians, suitable security advisories were issued, exhorting them to avoid travel to the violence prone Niger Delta region and take all necessary security measures as a matter of routine in other parts of Nigeria. The companies employing Indians were also advised to strengthen security provisions for their Indian employees.
- (e) Does not arise.