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Title : Regarding ban on the wearing of turbans by the Sikh community in France.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a recent decision by the French Government to impose a ban on the wearing of turbans by the Sikh community living in France has caused deep concern and consternation amongst the members of the community not only those who are living in France but people of that community all over the world.

For the last two months from different sides there have been representations to this Government to intervene in this matter to ensure that no country, with whom we have friendly relations takes decision which affects the fundamental rights of any person to have his own religious beliefs.

Sir, unfortunately, nothing concrete has been done so far and which is certainly a matter of concern for people in the country here. I would like to know, - since again the hon. Minister of External Affairs is here - whether the matter has been taken up with the French Government and if so, what has been the effects thereof ? In case it has not been taken up, it is time that the Government realises the importance of this matter and pursues the same vigorously with the French Government.

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