

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3801
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
STRATEGIC ALLIANCE BETWEEN INDIA AND US
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in his address the US Congress in September this year, our Prime Minister called for a strategic alliance between India and the US;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which India's security concerns, including the need for maintaining a minimum reliable nuclear deterrent and dangers of terrorism were shared by the US Government and the Congress;
- (d) whether the US in response called upon Pakistan to create conditions conducive for talks with India, while underlining India's role as a stabilising force in Asia; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) In his address to the Joint Session of the US Congress on 14 September 2000 Prime Minister had stated that 'As we embark on our common endeavour to build a new relationship we must give practical shape to our shared belief that democracies can be friends, partners and allies..... As we talk with candour, we open the doors to new possibilities and new areas of cooperation in advancing democracy, in combating terrorism, in energy and environment, science and technology and in international peacekeeping. And, we are discovering that our shared values and common interests are leading us to seek a natural partnership of shared endeavours.' PM had also stated that India and the United States 'should turn the example of our own cooperation into a partnership that uses the possibilities of the new technologies for defining new ways of fighting poverty, illiteracy, hunger, disease and pollution.'

(c) Prime Minister articulated India's security concerns, including the threat of terrorism and the context and substance of India's nuclear policies, at all appropriate occasions during his visit to the United States.

(d) & (e) The US has stated on a number of occasions that it has been sending tough messages to Pakistan on terrorism. At the press briefing after the meeting between Prime Minister and President Clinton in Washington on 15 September 2000, a senior US official stated, 'We have been concerned about connections between some elements in Pakistan, and what goes on in Kashmir'. A senior US State Department official stated in a media interview on 7th October that 'there is incompatibility between continued violence in Kashmir and dialogue...the first place to begin is the lower the level of violence so that there can be an environment so that talks can be productive'.

In the Vision of the new relationship between India and the United States, outlined by Prime Minister and President Clinton on 21 March 2000 in New Delhi, the two leaders had agreed that 'India and the United States will be partners in peace, with a common interest in and complementary responsibility for ensuring regional and international security... [and]... will engage in regular consultations on, and work together and with others for, strategic stability in Asia and beyond'. In a Joint Statement issued on 15 September 2000 in Washington, Prime Minister and President Clinton 'reiterated their conviction that closer cooperation and stronger partnership between the two countries will be a vital factor for shaping a future of peace, prosperity, democracy, pluralism and freedom for this world'. The two leaders also 'discussed the evolving security environment in Asia, recalling their common desire to work for stability in Asia and beyond. They agreed that the Asian Security Dialogue that the two countries have initiated will strengthen mutual understanding'.