

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4838
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
INDO-PAK TALKS
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the USA is seriously considering declaring some organised groups in Pakistan as terrorist outfits;
- (b) if so, whether the US Government has fully endorsed India's views that Pakistan is behind these organised groups;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the US has been able to convince Pakistan to consider their views and create an atmosphere for Indo-Pak talks; and
- (e) if so, the extent to which the US has succeeded in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) The United States has placed Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HUM) on the list of Foreign Terrorist Organisations. The US officials have also stated that it is examining whether some other terrorist organisations such as Lashkar-e-Toiba should also be placed on this list.
- (b) & (c) The US has acknowledged on a number of occasions, including in its annual reports on Patterns of Global Terrorism, that various terrorist organisations use Pakistan as the base for their operations. At a Hearing of the House International Relations Committee of the US Congress on 12th July 2000, the US State Department Coordinator for Counter-terrorism stated that 'Pakistan has tolerated terrorists living and moving freely within its territory. Numerous Kashmiri separatist groups and sectarian groups involved in terrorism use Pakistan as a base... We are looking hard at current developments and continue to be intensively engaged with Pakistan on improving cooperation. President Clinton and, most recently, Under Secretary Pickering both travelled to Pakistan to reinforce tough messages on terrorism and other key concerns.'
- (d) & (e) The US has asked Pakistan on a number of occasions, including during the visit of President Clinton to Islamabad, to crack down on terrorist organisations and take steps to create the appropriate conditions for a meaningful dialogue with India. A senior US official stated in a press briefing following the meeting between PM and the US President on 15 September 2000 that the US had not seen sufficient diminution of violence in Jammu and Kashmir.