

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4902
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
INDO-US CONSULTATION
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the USA has pledged full support of G-8 nations to an Indian proposal for a UN Convention on terrorism;
- (b) if so, whether the State Department of US also shared India's concerns about the growth of narcotics traffic in our neighbourhood especially Afghanistan;
- (c) if so, whether the US has agreed to have a third round of Indo-US consultations at Foreign Secretary level; and
- (d) if so, the time by which these consultations are likely to take place?

Answer

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

- (a) During the first meeting of the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism in February 2000, the two sides had agreed to convene a meeting of each side's legal experts to discuss the Indian proposed UN Terrorism Convention. Following discussions between the two sides, the US had extended support to the Indian proposal in G-8. During the second meeting of the Joint Working Group in September, the Joint Working Group also expressed support for India's proposal for a UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, and agreed to work towards this end.
- (b) The two sides fully shared concerns about the growth of narcotics trafficking in India's neighbourhood. In addition to their ongoing cooperation in narcotics control, the two sides have also decided to include narcotics trafficking and its links with terrorism in the mandate of the Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism. Further, during the visit of Prime Minister to the United States, the two sides agreed to establish a framework of bilateral dialogue to discuss mutual concerns on Afghanistan.
- (c) & (d) As part of the architecture of institutional dialogue agreed upon by Prime Minister and President Clinton in March 2000 to implement the vision of the new relationship that they had outlined, the two sides have agreed to hold regular Foreign Office Consultations and Asian Security Dialogue at the level of Foreign Secretary and the US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. Two rounds of these consultations have taken place, on 24-25 May and 31 August - 1 September 2000. The next meeting will take place at a mutually convenient date after the new US Administration assumes office in January 2001.