

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3859
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
VISIT OF BRITISH PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether British Permanent Under Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs visited New Delhi in October, 2000;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the issues taken up for discussion and the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

(a),(b)&(c) Yes, Sir. Sir John Kerr, Permanent Under Secretary for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs visited India on 16 & 17 October 2000. The two sides held discussions on various regional and multi-lateral issues of interest to India and the UK. The main focus of discussions, apart from bilateral and Commonwealth issues, was on Pakistan, Afghanistan, Fiji, UN peace-keeping in the context of the experience in Sierra Leone, reform of the UN Security Council and international terrorism. These talks mark the institutionalisation of the dialogue at Foreign Secretary level between India and the UK, with the next round to be held in London in spring of 2001. The talks were extremely productive and have led to the enhancement of mutual understanding between India and the UK.