

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:98
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000
PAK S NUCLEAR THREAT TO INDIA
RASA SINGH RAWAT;RAVI PRAKASH VERMA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the statement made by Pakistan's Military Chief Parvez Musharraf in an interview with CNN sometime in the first week of January 2000, holding out a nuclear threat to India;
- (b) whether the Indian Government have brought this fact to the notice of nuclear big powers of the World;
- (c) if so, the response received by the Government from these countries; and
- (d) the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

- (a) Yes Sir, the reported interview has been noted.
- (b) to (d) In our interaction with other countries, Government continue to highlight Pakistan's lack of restraint on nuclear issues, which was also reflected in certain irresponsible statements made by Pakistan during the Kargil conflict. This is in contrast to India's stand of commitment to `no-first-use` and `minimum deterrence`. India's stand has been appreciated by the international community. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security in accordance with its own assessment of threats to our security.