

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:554

ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001

INDO-U.S. COOPERATION AGAINST TERRORISM

ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;RAMSHETH THAKUR

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the U.S. has vowed to continue working closely with India and reach out to Central Asian Countries through various international organisations to combat terrorism;

(b) if so, whether India and the U.S. have been able to draw a concrete proposal and action plan to fight the terrorism; and (

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) India and the United States have institutionalised their cooperation to combat international terrorism through a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism. As part of their counter-terrorism cooperation, the two countries also work together, and with other countries, in the United Nations to promote international efforts to combat terrorism. The United States also cooperates with a number of other countries in counter-terrorism efforts.

(b) & (c) Yes, Sir. At the third meeting of the India-United States Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism was held on 25-26 June 2001 in Washington D.C., the two sides expressed concern at the growing menace of international terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking. The two sides unequivocally condemned all acts, methods, and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomever committed, and whatever the considerations that may be invoked to justify them.

The Indian side welcomed the U.S. decision to qualitatively upgrade and widen the scope of the Antiterrorism Training Assistance Program and the U.S. offer to share experience and expertise in strengthening counter-terrorism institutional structures in India. The Indian government accepted a U.S. offer for a seminar to counter chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) terrorist threats later this year. The two sides decided to enhance exchange of information and strengthen coordination of approaches and actions in combating international terrorism. In addition, the two sides continued consultations on the India-proposed Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism being discussed in the Sixth Committee of the UNGA, and reiterated support for its early finalisation.

They affirmed their support for United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1267 and 1333 imposed on the Taliban for supporting terrorism, harboring Usama bin Ladin and failing to close down terrorist training camps in Afghanistan. They agreed on the critical importance of the effective implementation of these resolutions, including through an appropriate monitoring mechanism.