

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:284
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
MEDIATION ON KASHMIR ISSUE
CHANDRESH PATEL KORDIA;MADHAVRAO SCINDIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the U.S. President Bill Clinton's desire to catalyze the resumption of a bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto; and
- (c) the role, if any, of third countries or international organisations in regard to issues between India and Pakistan, especially issues related to Jammu and Kashmir?

Answer

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir. It has, however, been made clear by the US that this is possible only in a bilateral mode. The U.S. President is reported to have said on 16th February that India and Pakistan will 'have to work out this business of Kashmir between themselves, unless we are asked by both parties to help, we can't get involved'.

(b) & (c) It has been Government's consistent view that all issues between India and Pakistan have to be resolved through bilateral dialogue between the two countries, in accordance with Simla Agreement of 1972, and the Lahore Declaration of 1999, also that there is no role for any Third Party in the resolution of disputes between India and Pakistan. The international community is also well informed that a serious dialogue is only possible if conditions are appropriate. Incitement to violence, hostile propaganda and sponsorship of cross-border terrorism by Pakistan are not conducive to dialogue.