

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4046

ANSWERED ON:19.04.2000

CLINTON'S OBSERVATION ON LOC

BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL);BHIM PRASAD DAHAL;RAJESH VERMA;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Clinton finds LoC most dangerous place in the world` appearing in the Times of India dated March 11, 2000

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) Government is aware of the comments attributed to President Clinton on the situation in South Asia, including his description of the region as the most dangerous place in the world.

(c) India has demonstrated its resolve and capacity to safeguard its interests in a restrained and responsible manner. There is now a better appreciation by the United States of India's restraint in dealing with persistent provocation from Pakistan. Government has also conveyed to the international community, including the United States, that it must direct its concerns on tensions in South Asia to persuading Pakistan to abjure violence, terrorism and hostile propaganda against India. Government is committed to resolving all problems with our neighbours through peaceful bilateral dialogue.