GOVERNMENT OF INDIA EXTERNAL AFFAIRS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4079 ANSWERED ON:19.04.2000 INTENT OF PAK MILITARY REGIME MADHAVRAO SCINDIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the statement made by Pak's Chief Executive, General Pervez Musharraf regarding the use of nuclear weapons by that country; and
- (b) if so, whether India apprised the U.S. and other big powers about the clear intent of Pak military regime to keep the first use of nuclear option open, despite India's commitment for no first use, and the reactions of U.S. and other powers thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

- (a) Yes Sir, the reported statement has been noted.
- (b) In our interaction with other countries, Government continues 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.