

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2653
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2001
INDO-PAK SUMMIT
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian representatives and high officials visited U.S. and discussed some issues including Osama and other subjects before Indo-Pak summit;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; (
- (c) the outcome thereof; and
- (d) its impact on Indo-Pak summit?

Answer

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

(a) Indian and U.S. officials met in Washington D.C. on 25-26 June 2001 for the third meeting of the India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism. The Joint Working Group is part of the architecture of institutional dialogue between India and the United States.

(b) & (c) The two sides expressed concern at the growing menace of international terrorism and 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 two sides also agreed on a range of proposals to upgrade and widen the scope of cooperation between India and the United States in the area of anti-terrorism training and strengthening of counter-terrorism institutional structures in India. 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.

Both sides agreed that the policies of the Taliban continue to foster terrorism that threatens the interest of both countries, as well as regional and international stability. 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.

(d) The meeting of the Joint Working Group took place in the context of the shared commitment to continue and intensify their cooperation to combat international terrorism and it was unrelated to any other event.