GOVERNMENT OF INDIA EXTERNAL AFFAIRS LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:82 ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000 DECLARING PAKISTAN AS A TERRORIST STATE MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED:NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Government had appealed to World's big powers to declare Pakistan as a terrorist State after the hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC-814 in December, 1999;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the response of each of these countries received by the Government;
- (d) whether the Government are aware about the statement made by the US that its Government had no evidence that Pakistan was involved in hijacking of Indian plane;
- (e) whether any diplomatic efforts have been made by the Indian Government on this front;
- (f) if so, the details of efforts made by the Government to mobilise international opinion in support of India's stand at various levels including at U.N. level; and (g) the extent to which success has been achieved?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) to (g) Government have appropriately and effectively brought to the notice of the international community Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism support, of which the hijacking of IC-814 was the most recent example. The facts regarding Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism have been brought before several international fora and have also been raised at high level bilateral discussions with world leaders. The international community now openly recognizes Pakistan's state sponsorship ofterrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India, and the impact this has on the security ofour country and the region. This greater awareness is being reflected in the statements by official spokesmen of several governments and also in the international media coverage on Pakistan.

Government have seen the remarks of the US Government on the hijacking and have made known its views to the US side about Pakistan's role in the hijacking and that of Pakistan based terrorist organizations. Government has also noted that US government spokesman have said that in general there was support and ties between agencies of the Government of Pakistan and terrorist groups operating in Kashmir. India and the United States have also set up a Joint Working Group to intensify their cooperation in combating all forms of terrorism. India has also proposed an International Convention on Terrorism and the next meeting of the UN General Assembly will discuss this proposal in September 2000.