

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5611

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2001

TALKS ON SIACHEN

IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to send army officers to Pakistan for talks on Siachen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in resolving the Siachen problem?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) No, Sir. In keeping with our traditional quest for good neighborly ties, and also to create a conducive environment prior to the visit of the Pakistan President to India (14-16 July 2001), on 6th July 2001, Prime Minister instructed the Director General of Military Operations to meet his Pakistani counterpart so that processes of peace along the Line of Control (LoC) and the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) can be strengthened and stabilized. Pakistan's response is awaited.

(c) India is committed to establishing good neighbourly relations with Pakistan. For this purpose India initiated the Composite Dialogue in 1998, which seeks to build trust and confidence, establish a stable structure of cooperation and address outstanding issues. Under the Composite Dialogue, direct bilateral dialogue is held on the subject of Siachen, in addition to the subjects of Peace & Security including CBMs, Jammu & Kashmir, Tulbul Navigation Project, Sir Creek, Terrorism and Drug trafficking, Economic and Commercial Cooperation and Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in various fields.