

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:722
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000
UK STAND ON INDO PAK RELATIONS
RATTAN LAL KATARIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been shift in UK stand on Kashmir issue;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the UK Government has for the first time accepted the sanctity of the Line of Control and called for an end to the militancy in J&K; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHR1 JASWANT SINGH)

(a)&(d)Sir, a Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in parts a) to d) of answer to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 722 For answer on 17th May 2000

UK STAND ON INDO PAK RELATIONS

1. In a comprehensive statement on Jammu and Kashmir, made following a debate in the House of Commons on 21 July 1999, the UK Government, inter alia, stated: `It is important to recognize that the incursion, and the continued violence of the militants in Jammu and Kashmir, have done nothing, and can do nothing, to promote a durable solution in Kashmir. The evidence suggests that the militants have little in common with the ordinary people in Kashmir, and do not represent them.`

2. This was reiterated by Mr. Peter Hain, British Minister of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office who, in response to a question in the House of Commons on 18th January 2000, said: ``Pakistani cross-border terrorism is proving to be an enormous threat to the stability of Kashmir. We look to General Musharraf to make sure that under his regime, such terrorism stops. We particularly look to General Musharraf, who is widely seen as the author of the Kargil incident last year, to ensure that nothing like that ever happens again`.

3. The UK Government have also stated: `We have welcomed the action already taken by the Indian authorities in addressing human rights concerns. The National Human Rights Commission is regarded as an effective custodian and promoter of human rights in India.`

4. The UK, as a member of the European Union, is party to the European Union Presidency Declaration of 24th June 1999, which called for full respect of the Line of Control. Prime Minister Blair had, in his statement of 19th July 1999, also said: `I hope both sides will respect the Line of Control`. This was also reiterated by Foreign Secretary Mr. Robin Cook during his recent visit to India (15-18 April 2000).