

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:928

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000

GLOBAL TERRORISM

ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;BHIM PRASAD DAHAL;GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;MANIKRAO HODLYA  
GAVIT;PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR;RAMSHETH THAKUR;REENA CHOUDHARY;SHIVAJI MANE;SURESH KURUP

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether India and United States have set up a Joint Working Group to consider ways and means to counter international terrorism;
- (b) whether this proposal is an outcome of several high level talks between the two sides and the understanding reached between India and US;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the extent to which both the countries will contemplate inter-check terrorism;
- (e) whether the first meeting of Indo-US Joint Working Group on counter-terrorism held in Washington in February, 2000;
- (f) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcome thereof; and (g) the measures considered by both the countries to check the global terrorism?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir. India and the United States announced the constitution of a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism at the conclusion of the last round of Indo-US Security Dialogue, held in London on January 18 -19, 2000.

(b) & (c) The two countries agreed to institutionalise their co-operation to combat terrorism following extensive consultations on this issue. Officials from the two countries met in Washington on September 2-3, 1999 and in Delhi on September 17, 1999 to share information and assessment on the threat of terrorism and the means to counter it. The issue of terrorism was also discussed extensively during the talks in London on November 17-18, 1999 and January 18-19, 2000 when the two sides met to continue their ongoing dialogue on security, non-proliferation, disarmament and related issues.

(d), (e), (f) The first meeting of the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism took place in Washington D.C. on February 7-8, 2000. The two sides expressed concern at the growing menace of international terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking. The two sides unequivocally condemned all acts, methods, and practices of terrorism, regardless of the motives that may be invoked to justify them. The two sides agreed to discuss specific measures for implementing the U.S. offer of Anti-terrorism Assistance programmes. The group also decided to convene a meeting of each side's legal experts in April to discuss the Indian-proposed UN Terrorism Convention.

The two sides agreed to intensify their joint cooperation to ensure that the perpetrators of the hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight 814 are brought to justice, as part of their joint efforts to combat international terrorism.

(g) The two countries agreed also to enhance co-operation to combat international terrorism, and as part of this process, the two sides would share experience, exchange information, and co-ordinate approaches and action.

The Indian side shared with the US side our information and assessment relating to the nature and origin of cross-border terrorism in India and to the identity of individuals and agencies involved in the hijacking of IC-814.