

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:944

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000

VISIT OF UK ARMY CHIEF TO PAKISTAN

MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT;RAMESH CHAND TOMAR;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the press news item captioned `UK Army Chief's visit to Pak upsets India` appeared in The Hindustan Times dated January 12, 2000;
- (b) whether the Government have obtained the information about the purpose and outcome of the visit in terms of improvement in UK-Pak relations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the UK Government's senior-most army officers visit to Pakistan would have any impact on the relation with UK; and
- (e) if so, the manner in which it is likely to influence the peace and security of this region?

Answer

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir. The British Government had informed us, in advance, about the visit of General Guthrie to Pakistan.

- : 2 : -

(b) The British Government has stated that the purpose of General Guthrie's visit to Pakistan was to send a clear message to the present regime in Pakistan, with regard to the need for a clear time-table for restoration of democracy in Pakistan. Pakistan was also urged to ensure that support to cross-border terrorism in Kashmir is discontinued.

(d) & (e) The Government is of the view that all efforts aimed at restraining the Pakistani regime from pursuing the policy of cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and to seek the early restoration of democracy in Pakistan should contribute to promoting peace and stability in the region.