

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:568

ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002

INDO PAK TIES

IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;SHRINWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government have recently announced some steps with a view to defuse the tension between India and Pakistan:

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c)the manner in which Pakistan has reciprocated India`s gesture; and

(d)the role played by the foreign countries in defusing the military stand- off between the two?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) & (b) In recognition of General Musharraf`s commitment to end cross border infiltration on a permanent basis, India, on June 10, 2002, formally announced lifting of the overflight ban on Pakistani Aircraft that was imposed in January 2002 after the December 13 attack on our Parliament. The decision however did not involve the restoration of air links between the two countries.

(c)Pakistan did not respond to this de-escalatory measure taken by India.

(d) In the aftermath of December 13 and May 14 terrorist attacks, Government took diplomatic and other measures to effectively bring to the attention of the international community the fact of Pakistan`s sponsorship of cross border terrorism against India.

The international community has widely acknowledged Pakistan`s involvement with cross border infiltration and terrorism. There is consistent demand that Pakistan must put a permanent stop to cross border infiltration and terrorism. Pakistan`s commitments on January 12 and May 27 to stop infiltration, not allow the territory of Pakistan to be used for terrorist activities, or any organisation in Pakistan to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir were important in defusing situation at that time.