

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3531
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2002
VISIT OF U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE
GADDE RAMAMOCHAN;M.H. AMBAREESH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the U.S. Secretary of State visited India recently;
- (b) if so, the issues discussed; and
- (c) the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell visited India on 27-28 July 2002.
- (b) The two sides discussed bilateral relations, regional issues and the current situation arising out of persistence of cross-border terrorism in India, despite commitments made by President Musharraf in this regard.
- (c) We reviewed the significant progress in our bilateral relations over the past eighteen months and agreed to accelerate the process of qualitatively transforming our relationship in pursuit of the vision outlined by Prime Minister and President Bush last November in Washington. There was broad convergence of views on this issue. Contrary to President Musharraf's assertions, Secretary Powell agreed that cross-border infiltration and terrorist incidents have not ended, reiterated that President Musharraf must fulfil his commitments on permanent end to cross-border infiltration and acknowledged that progress in this regard by Pakistan is required for creating conditions for de-escalation and resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan. He recognised the link between a permanent end to infiltration and infrastructure of support to terrorism such as terrorist camps. Secretary Powell also agreed that an atmosphere of safety and free of interference is required for the success of the election in Jammu and Kashmir, and that Pakistan must make every effort to avoid disturbing the elections.