

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3634
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2002
MEETING OF INDO U.S. GROUP ON COUNTER TERRORISM
GADDE RAMAMOCHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India-U.S. Joint Working Group on counter terrorism was established in January, 2000;
- (b) if so, the number of meetings held by it so far;
- (c) the issues discussed; and
- (d) the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism has met five times since it was established in January 2000. The last meeting was held on 11-12 July 2002.

(c) The two sides share assessment of the international terrorism situation, including in South Asia; discuss ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in intelligence sharing, cooperation in investigation and capacity building in preventive, protective and consequence management aspects of counter-terrorism; and, exchange views on strengthening multilateral efforts in combating terrorism.

(d) The meetings of the Joint Working Group have deepened mutual understanding on international terrorism situation; strengthened intelligence and investigative cooperation; established anti-terrorism training programmes for Indian law enforcement officials; launched a range of bilateral cooperation programmes in counter-terrorism capacity building; led to better coordination of approaches and efforts in advancing international and multilateral cooperation in combating terrorism; and, contributed to action against terrorist organizations of concern to each other.