

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3406

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2002

BANGLADESH STAND ON TERRORIST GROUPS

C. SREENVAASAN;GADDE RAMAMOCHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangladesh has rejected the charges of our Government regarding Bangladesh territory being used by several terrorist groups including Al-Quida as reported in several newspapers on November 29, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Government of India has been regularly taking up the issue of presence of terrorist groups on Bangladesh territory with Government of Bangladesh at different levels through diplomatic channels and institutional mechanisms existing between the two countries.

The view of the Government of Bangladesh as reported in newspapers on 29 November 2002 has not been officially received in the Government of India. However, officially the Government of Bangladesh has reiterated its assurance that it would not allow its territory to be used for activities inimical to India's interest. The Government would continue to engage Government of Bangladesh on this important matter of mutual concern.