

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1235
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2003
ASIA PACIFIC FORUM
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a meeting of Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions was held in November, 2002 in New Delhi;
- (b) if so, the countries which participated in the meeting; and
- (c) the details of the discussion held and the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONS, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK)

(a): Yes, Sir. The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions was held in November, 2002 in New Delhi.

(b): The following countries participated in the meeting:-

India, Australia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, Afghanistan, Iran, and Palestine.

(c): The following important issues were discussed:-

- (i) The recommendations of the Advisory Council Jurists' reports on the death penalty and child pornography on the internet.
- (ii) Proposal to develop a new international convention on the rights of people with disabilities.
- (iii) The report of Advisory Council of Jurists on trafficking.
- (iv) Strengthening of strategic partnership with human rights institutions.
- (v) The importance of national institutions undertaking practical collaborative activities with non-governmental organizations at both the national and regional level for the protection and promotion of human rights.

In conclusion the Forum requested the Secretariat to prepare draft terms of reference on the primacy of rule of law in containing terrorism and protection of human rights, for its approval. It also recommended the reinvigoration of the network of focal points on trafficking within Forum member institutions.