

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4655

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003

U.S. INTERVENTION IN INDO-PAK ISSUE

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;GADDE RAMAMOCHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

-

(a) whether the United States Secretary of State has promised a greater degree of attention in the Indo-Pak issue after the cessation of the ongoing war in Iraq as reported in the Times Of India dated April 1, 2003; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government to the said promise?

Answer

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

(a) In an interview to the New York Times on 29 March 2003, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, speaking on the subject of the broader U.S. foreign policy agenda, had mentioned, among other issues, 'India, Pakistan and the whole Sub-Continent problem' and stated that the United States would like to 'make sure we don't find ourselves in the same situation we were in a year ago'.

(b) The international community, including the United States, is aware of Government's consistent position that all issues between India and Pakistan can only be resolved through direct bilateral dialogue between the two countries. However, the United States could contribute to preventing escalation of tensions in the region by pressing on Pakistan to stop sponsoring and supporting cross-border terrorism against India, in accordance with the commitments that it had received from Pakistan in June 2002 and in the context of the global war against terrorism.