

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:30  
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003  
INDO-PAK PEACE PROCESS  
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

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- (a) whether India has proposed a package of confidence building measures to Pakistan to resolve the disputes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Pakistan thereto; (
- (c) whether Pakistan has proposed extension of the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which these measures will be fruitful in normalising relations between the two countries?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERED TO PARA (a) to (e) TO THE ANSWER TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 30 REGARDING INDO-PAK PEACE PROCESS.

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) In continuation of Prime Minister's initiative of April 18, and as a part of the step-by-step approach to normalize relations with Pakistan, India, on 22 October 2003, announced a series of steps to further promote people to people contacts between the two countries.

The proposals included - resumption of civil aviation links to be followed by resumption of the rail link; resumption of bilateral sporting encounters including cricket; permission to senior citizens (above 65) to cross at Wagah on foot; holding of visa camps in different cities to benefit the people; increasing the capacity of the Delhi-Lahore-Delhi bus service by running more buses; the establishment of links between the Coast Guards authorities of the two countries; the non-arrest by either side of fishermen of the other country within a certain band on the sea; provision of free medical treatment to a second lot of 20 Pakistani children; resumption of passenger shipping services between Mumbai and Karachi; commencement of a bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarbad, and a bus or rail link between Khokrapar and Munabao, and further increase in size of the respective missions after resumption of civil aviation and as technical level talks begin for resumption of the rail link. These proposals were substantive, far reaching, and designed to be of genuine benefit to people on both sides.

Pakistan's initial response on 29 October 2003 was inadequate. While welcoming some of the proposals, like allowing senior citizens to cross Wagah on foot; establishing links between Indian Coast Guards and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency; and resumption of bilateral sporting contacts, Pakistan opted to politicize the humanitarian gestures and attached impractical, extraneous and delaying conditions to others.

However, on 23 November 2003, Pakistan Prime Minister Jamali responded positively to the Indian proposals of 22nd October, and agreed to a number of measures. He also announced that Pakistan armed forces along the Line of Control (LOC) have been issued instructions to ceasefire along the LOC with effect from Eid-al-Fitr. Subsequently, the Director General Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two countries agreed to observe ceasefire on the International Border, LOC and Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) in Jammu and Kashmir with effect from the midnight of November 25, 2003.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Prime Minister's initiative has generated positive resonance amongst the people in both countries. India would continue with the normalization process that has been set in motion since April 18, building upon the successes achieved and support generated, so that lasting peace is established between the two countries.