

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:326
ANSWERED ON:04.02.2004
12TH SAARC SUMMIT
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Twelfth SAARC Summit was held in Islamabad recently;
- (b) if so, the issues discussed along with the decisions taken therein;
- (c) whether Pakistan agreed to discuss the extradition treaty with India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof ;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ;
- (f) whether our PM had a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart during the said Summit.
- (g) if so, the details of issues discussed ; and
- (h) the outcome thereof ?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT AS MENTIONED IN RESPONSE TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 326, PRIORITY VI FOR ANSWER 04.02.2004. REGARDING 12TH SAARC SUMMIT.

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The twelfth SAARC Summit was held in Islamabad on January 4-6, 2004. A large number of issues were discussed and decisions taken for promoting regional cooperation in areas such as combating terrorism, promoting economic cooperation and trade in South Asia, poverty alleviation, environment, tourism, culture, health, education, energy cooperation, science and technology, information and communication. The SAARC Social Charter, the Additional Protocol to the 1987 SAARC Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, and an Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area were signed at the Summit.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

(f),(g)&(h) On the sidelines of the twelfth SAARC Summit in Islamabad, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee met the Prime Minister of Pakistan on January 4, 2004 and the President of Pakistan on January 5, 2004.

A Joint Press Statement was issued on January 6, 2004 after the meeting between Prime Minister Vajpayee and President General Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan. A copy of the Joint Press Statement is placed at Annexure.

Annexure

Joint Press Statement

The President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India met during the SAARC Summit in Islamabad.

The Indian Prime Minister while expressing satisfaction over the successful conclusion of the SAARC Summit appreciated the excellent arrangements made by the host country.

Both leaders welcomed the recent steps towards normalization of relations between the two countries and expressed the hope that the positive trends set by the CBMs would be consolidated.

Prime Minister Vajpayee said that in order to take forward and sustain the dialogue process, violence, hostility and terrorism must be prevented. President Musharraf reassured Prime Minister Vajpayee that he will not permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. President Musharraf emphasized that a sustained and productive dialogue addressing all issues would lead to positive results.

To carry the process of normalization forward the President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India agreed to commence the process of the composite dialogue in February, 2004. The two leaders are confident that the resumption of the composite dialogue will lead to peaceful settlement of all bilateral issues, including Jammu & Kashmir, to the satisfaction of both sides.

The two leaders agreed that constructive dialogue would promote progress towards the common objective of peace, security and economic development for our peoples and for future generations.

Islamabad

January 6, 2004.