

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:321

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003

INDO-TURKEY AGREEMENT AGAINST TERRORISM

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;BHASKAR RAO PATIL;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have signed an agreement to set up a Joint Working Group against terrorism with Turkey;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether Turkey has extended any help to the Union Government for its fight against terrorism;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard;
- (e) whether our PM visited Turkey recently; and
- (f) if so, the details of issues discussed between the two countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [SHRI VINOD KHANNA]

- a) Yes. During Prime Minister's visit to Turkey from 16-19 September 2003, a Protocol between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey was signed for setting up of a Joint Working Group on Combating Terrorism.
- b) The Joint Working Group intends to share experience concerning terrorism, organized crime and illicit trafficking of humans, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as their linkages. This Group will work towards coordinating and extending cooperation on matters relating to ongoing global campaign against terrorism in the United Nations and other specialized institutions.
- c & d) The first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Combating Terrorism is scheduled to take place shortly, subject to mutual convenience.
- e) Yes. Prime Minister visited Turkey from 16-19 September, 2003.
- f) During Prime Minister's visit, a review of the present status of bilateral relations between the two countries took place. The ways and means of augmenting bilateral economic and trade relations, including in the fields of energy, IT, etc. were discussed. Cooperation on security issues, including through Joint Working Group on Combating Terrorism, and defence cooperation was also discussed. In addition, the situations in Iraq and Afghanistan also figured in the discussions between the two sides.