

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1314
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the 49th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was held in October 2003 in Dhaka;
- (b) If so, the details of the issues discussed during the said Conference;
- (c) Whether Pakistan is still not considered a member of the Commonwealth;
- (d) If so, the reasons thereof; and
- (e) The steps proposed to be taken by the member nations to implement the decisions taken at the Conference?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) The 49th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was held from 4-12 October 2003 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Conference discussed global and intra-Commonwealth partnerships for promoting sustainable development, economic and social development, good democratic governance, international terrorism, reform of the UN and WTO, global peace, human rights and gender issues.
- (c) & (d) Pakistan was suspended from membership of the Commonwealth Councils by the Commonwealth Heads of Government in Durban in November 1999 because of the overthrow of the democratically elected government in Pakistan in October 1999. Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) re-affirmed its decision on September 26, 2003 in New York.
- (e) Recommendations of the Conference are sent to Member Nations for action as may be considered appropriate.