

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3180  
ANSWERED ON:04.02.2004  
DEFENCE COOPERATION WITH U.S.  
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU;PRABODH PANDA

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

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- (a) whether India and the U.S. have pledged to combat terrorism to secure peace in South Asia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the two countries have chalked out measures to enhance defence cooperation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the U.S. India Defence Policy Group have issued any statement in this regard;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether U.S. has offered material assistance to India to fight insurgency in Kashmir and North-Eastern region; and
- (h) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b) India and the United States have institutionalised their cooperation to combat international terrorism through a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism that has met five times. As part of their counter-terrorism cooperation, the two countries also work together, and with other countries, in the United Nations to promote international efforts to combat terrorism. India has consistently conveyed to the international community that terrorism is a global problem that required a comprehensive international response against terrorism wherever it exists.

(c) and (d) Yes. The defence cooperation is promoted through an elaborate institutional structure of dialogue between the defence establishments of the two countries that includes the Defence Policy Group at the apex level, and the Military Cooperation Group, the Executive Steering Group of the Army, Air Force and Navy, the Security Cooperation Group, the Joint Technical Group and the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff and Integrated Defence Staff Dialogue to deal with specific aspects of the cooperation.

(e) and (f) Yes. Following its meeting in Washington DC on August 6-7, 2003, the Defence Policy Group issued a statement that took note of developments in the international strategic environment, highlighted accomplishments of bilateral defence cooperation in the preceding year and approved a range of bilateral defence cooperation activities for the following year.

(g) and (h) No. However, India and the United States have institutionalised a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism that provides a forum for an ongoing bilateral dialogue on cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism. As part of this dialogue, the two countries are engaged in capacity building in preventive and protective consequence management aspects of counter-terrorism, as also in intelligence sharing, law-enforcement cooperation and strengthening of international efforts in combating terrorism. The United States has also condemned, on a number of occasions, incidents of terrorism in different parts of the country.