

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3257
ANSWERED ON:04.02.2004
NON-ACCEPTANCE OF LOC BY PAKISTAN
BHASKAR RAO PATIL;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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(a) whether Pakistan has ruled out accepting LOC as border to resolve the Kashmir issue as reported in the Statesman dated January 11, 2004 ; (

(b) if so, whether Foreign Secretary level talks were held recently to resolve the Kashmir issue ; (

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof ; and (

(d) the details of steps proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve the Kashmir issue ?

Answer

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

(a) Government have seen the report in the Statesman of January 11, 2004 in which the President of Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf, was quoted as stating that Pakistan had neither accepted the idea of making the LoC a permanent border nor was there any question of accepting it in the future.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise

(d) It has been the consistent position of the Government that the State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. India is committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan bilaterally and peacefully in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration.