

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4326

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2005

AGREEMENT ON BALLISTIC MISSILE TESTS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

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

- (a) whether India and Pakistan have signed an agreement regarding prior notification of ballistic missile tests as reported in the Times of India dated August 7, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the details of discussion held with Mr. Tariq Osman Hyder during his recent visit to India;
- (d) whether India has handed over a draft agreement to Pakistan on reducing nuclear risks;
- (e) if so, the response of Pakistan thereto;
- (f) whether India also proposes to hold talks with Pakistan on issues like terrorism and smuggling of narcotics;
- (g) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (h) the time-frame decided to hold such talks?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a)to(e): The third round of India-Pakistan Expert Level Dialogue on Nuclear Confidence Building Measures was held in New Delhi on 5-6 August 2005. The two sides held wide-ranging discussions including on their respective security concepts and nuclear doctrines. An understanding on the proposed Agreement on Pre-Notification of Flight Testing of Ballistic Missiles was reached. The proposed Agreement commits both sides to pre-notify in a structured format flight testing of ballistic missiles, with the objective of enhancing mutual confidence and engendering predictability and transparency of intent. Both sides recommended the agreed text of the proposed Agreement to the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan for formalization.

In pursuance of the MoU of 21 February 1999 which inter alia provided for undertaking national measures to reduce the risks of accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons under their respective control, India handed over a draft of a proposed agreement to Pakistan. The two sides also discussed technical parameters relating to operationalization of the hotline link proposed to be established between the Foreign Secretaries, through their respective Foreign Offices, to prevent misunderstandings and reduce risks relevant to nuclear issues. Details about implementation and testing schedules were exchanged. It was agreed that the hotline link will be established in September 2005.

(f)to(h) : Discussions have been held between the two sides on Terrorism and Drug Trafficking. These issues will be discussed further at the Home Secretary level talks between the two sides scheduled to be held on 29-30 August 2005 in New Delhi.