

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:364

ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006

CBMS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Annayagari Shri Sai Prathap;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed;Singh Shri Sugrib;Sugavanam Shri E.G.

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

- (a) whether official level talks have been held between India and Pakistan on various Confidence Building Measures(CBMs) recently ;
- (b) if so, the complete details thereof;
- (c) whether any agreements were signed on the occasion;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether bus service for Pakistan has been started recently;
- (f) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken to check anti-national activities on this service;
- (g) the number of Indian and Pakistan nationals who visited either country during 2005 and 2006; and
- (h) the steps proposed to be taken to operationalise the Poonch-Rawalkot bus service and to further improve the relations between the two countries?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) - (b) The third round of Pakistan-India Expert Level Dialogue on Conventional Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) was held in Islamabad on 27 April 2006. As mandated by the Foreign Secretaries the two sides continued consultations on security concepts to develop measures for confidence building in the conventional field aimed at avoidance of conflict.

Some CBMs aimed at avoidance of conflict were agreed on by the two sides - finalisation of Border Ground Rules for implementation along the international border; modalities for holding quarterly flag meetings, and on needs basis, at sector level commanders in already agreed sectors; elaborating, consistent with its intent, the agreement reached on no development of new posts and defence works along the LoC; and the finalisation of an agreement on speedy return of inadvertent line crosser(s).

As indicated in the Joint Statement of 18 January 2006, the Pakistan side presented a draft Agreement to the Indian side on the Prevention of Incidents at Sea in order to ensure safety of navigation by naval vessels, and aircraft belonging to the two sides, which is being examined. Both sides agreed to periodically discuss further CBMs and to review and monitor the implementation of existing Conventional CBMs as called for in the Lahore MoU of 1999 and as mandated by the Foreign Secretaries in the Composite Dialogue process. They also agreed to report the progress made in the present round of the talks to the respective Foreign Secretaries who will decide on the date and venue of the next meeting.

During the fourth round of Pakistan-India Expert Level Dialogue on Nuclear Confidence Building Measures, held in Islamabad on 25-26 April 2006, the two sides held discussions in the framework of the Lahore MoU of 1999. As mandated by Foreign Secretaries the two sides continued consultations on security concepts and nuclear doctrines to develop measures for confidence building. They reiterated their desire to keep working towards further elaboration and implementation of Nuclear CBMs within the framework of the Lahore MoU.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction on the signing of the Agreement on Pre-Notification of Flight Testing of Ballistic Missiles and the operationalization of the hotline link between the two Foreign Secretaries. The two sides held detailed discussions on the draft text of an agreement, the objective of which is to reduce the risk from accidents relating to nuclear weapons, and agreed to work towards its finalization.

Both sides discussed modalities for further securing the Foreign Secretaries' hotline. Both sides agreed that future periodic Expert Level talks on Nuclear CBMs would discuss, review and monitor the implementation of Nuclear CBMs as called for by the Lahore MoU of 1999. They also agreed to report the progress made in the present round of the talks to the respective Foreign Secretaries who will decide on the date and venue of the next meeting.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) - (f) In 2006, the Lahore-Amritsar weekly bus service commenced on January 20, followed by a weekly Amritsar-Lahore bus service on January 24. The Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus started service on March 24, 2006 and the Poonch-Rawalkot was started from June 20, 2006. Security implications of the bus links have been taken into account and passengers are allowed to travel on them only after due procedures and checks have been completed.

(g) The number of Pakistani nationals who visited India is 94078 in 2005 and 17913 up to March in 2006. Information regarding the number of Indian nationals who visited Pakistan in 2005 and 2006 are being collected.

(h) The bus service between Poonch-Rawalkot was started from June 20, 2006. The modalities for operationalisation of the truck service on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad route are being worked out. India has also proposed a bus service between Kargil and Skardu.