

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1153
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
ALLEGED DIVERSION OF EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUNDS
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the funds for Earthquake Relief were allegedly diverted to fund terror by Pakistan;
- (b) whether the Union Government had pledged \$ 25 million for Pakistan's earthquake reconstruction;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether during the Home Secretary talks between India and Pakistan, earlier this year, India asked for the Jamaat-ud-Dawa boss, Hafiz Mohammad Sayeed, to be handed over to India;
- (e) if so, whether India had demanded that some other terrorists who have their base in Pakistan be surrendered to India;
- (f) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (g) the reaction of Pakistan thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) There were reports in the media following the 8 October 2005 earthquake that donations and external relief assistance channelled through domestic religious organisations in Pakistan had benefited jihadi organisations operating there.

(b) & (c) At the international donors' conference organised by the UN Coordinator for Emergency Relief in Geneva in October 2005, the Government of India extended an amount of US\$ 25 million for earthquake relief assistance to the Government of Pakistan. At the donors' conference in Islamabad in November 2005, India reaffirmed its commitment and requested the Government of Pakistan to source reconstruction material from India utilising these funds. An MOU was signed in July 2006 to put in place a procedure for release of this payment directly to the exporting companies from India.

(d) - (g) Government has, from time to time, handed over to Pakistan, lists of fugitives from Indian law wanted for crimes/terrorist acts in India, known to be in Pakistan with the request that they be apprehended and handed over to India. The issue was again raised during the Home Secretary level talks in Islamabad on May 30-31, 2006 in Islamabad. During the meeting in Havana on September 16, 2006 between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President General Pervez Musharraf, it was agreed to set up an anti-terrorism institutional mechanism to consider counter-terrorism measures. In pursuance of this Joint Statement, a three-member anti-terror mechanism to be headed by Additional Secretaries had been agreed during the Foreign Secretary talks on November 14-15, 2006. Its mandate would be to consider counter-terrorism measures, including through the regular and timely sharing of information.