

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:181

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2004

INDO-PAKISTAN PEACE INITIATIVES

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Jha Shri Raghunath;Nair Shri P.K. Vasudevan;Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao;Yadav Shri Parasnath

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether our PM met the Pakistan President during his recent visit to USA;
- (b) if so, the details of confidence building measures discussed by the two leaders;
- (c) whether any agreement was reached for a peaceful final settlement of all the outstanding issues pending between the two countries including the J&K issue;
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof;
- (e) whether a discussion on laying of oil-gas pipeline between Iran and India via Pakistan figured in the said talk;
- (f) if so, the current status of the said proposal; and
- (g) the details of concrete steps agreed upon to further strengthen the bilateral ties between the two countries?

Answer

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

(a) to (g) Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met President Musharraf on September 24, 2004 on the margins of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York.

They, inter alia, discussed bilateral issues. Prime Minister emphasized upon the criticality of the fulfillment of President Musharraf's reassurance of January 6, 2004 not to permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

The two leaders agreed that Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) will contribute to generating an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding, and that CBMs of all categories under discussion between the two governments should be implemented keeping in mind practical possibilities.

They agreed that possible options for a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the issue of Jammu and Kashmir should be explored in a sincere spirit and purposeful manner. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh also conveyed to President Musharraf that India was ready to look at various options for resolving the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, but there could be no redrawing of boundaries or another partition of the country.

They also agreed to look at the possibility of a gas pipeline to India via Pakistan in the larger context of expanding trade and economic relations between the two countries.

In the Joint Statement issued after the meeting on September 24, 2004, both leaders reiterated their commitment to continue with the bilateral dialogue to restore normalcy and cooperation between India and Pakistan.