

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5425  
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2007  
ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE  
Jindal Shri Naveen;Nayak Shri Ananta

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

- (a) whether the third round-table conference on Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) was held during April 2007;
- (b) if so, the conclusions arrived at in the conference;
- (c) whether the five working groups on J&K have given their reports;
- (d) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (e) whether these were discussed at the said conference; and
- (f) if so, the reaction of the participants thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

- (a): Yes, Sir. The Third Roundtable Conference on Jammu and Kashmir was held at Delhi on April 24, 2007.
  - (b): The participants acknowledged that the continuation of the process of a wide ranging dialogue initiated by the Prime Minister had helped evolve a better understanding of the issues that affect the life of the people of the Jammu and Kashmir.
  - (c): Four of the five Working Groups on Jammu and Kashmir have submitted their reports.
  - (d) to (f): The Conference gave in principle endorsement to the approach suggested by the Working Group I on Confidence Building Measures across Segments of Society in the State viz. strengthening human rights protection; improving relief and rehabilitation of widows, orphans and other victims of militancy and violence; and preserving the rich and diverse cultural landscape of the State. It appreciated the concerns expressed by the Working Group regarding the rights of all minorities in Jammu and Kashmir, and the urgent need to facilitate the return of Kashmiri Pandits to their hearth and homes.
- The Conference applauded ongoing efforts to strengthen people to people contacts and promote trade and commerce across the LoC. It endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group II and the need to further streamline these processes, and to expand and deepen such contacts and exchanges in the spheres of trade, tourism and various other walks of life.
- The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group III on Balanced Economic Development of Jammu and Kashmir and urged the Central and State Governments to take steps to carry them forward.
- The Conference fully endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group IV on Good Governance and urged the State Government to operationalise them in right earnest in order to bring greater efficiency, transparency and accountability into the systems and processes of governance and to bring the Government closer to the people.