

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2216
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2004
WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES FROM INDO-PAK BORDER
Ahr Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of India has taken any decision to withdraw the forces deployed along Indo-Pak borders after the secretary level talks held between India and Pakistan;
- (b) if so, whether any time limit has been fixed for the purpose;
- (c) if not, whether it is being viewed as an obstacle in the way of shaping normal relations between the two countries; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) & (d): The Government do not view it as an obstacle. Deployment of defence forces are a matter of sovereign right, to ensure adequate security and effective action against terrorism.