

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3547
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
OBSERVATION OF OIC REGARDING KASHMIR
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has made any observation regarding Kashmir issue as reported in "The Times of India" dated March 17, 2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, OIC made observation on the issue of Jammu & Kashmir in its final communiqué and passed a resolution on the dispute at its 11th Summit held in Dakar, Senegal from March 13-14, 2008. The excerpts of the OIC communiqué are enclosed as an annexure.

The Government of India has issued rebuttal (March 16, 2008) on the observation of OIC on Jammu & Kashmir, which states "We note with regret, that the OIC in the documents issued following the OIC Summit held in Dakar, Senegal on 13-14 March, 2008 has once again chosen to comment upon Jammu & Kashmir and issues internal to India. The OIC has no locus standi in matters concerning India's internal affairs including Jammu & Kashmir which is an integral part of India. We strongly reject all such comments."

(c) India is neither a member nor an observer in the OIC. The Government of India has consistently maintained its stand that OIC has no locus standi in matters concerning India's internal affairs including Jammu & Kashmir and this has been taken up bilaterally with the member countries of the OIC.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3547 REGARDING 'OBSERVATION OF OIC REGARDING KASHMIR' FOR ANSWER ON 16.04.2008

EXCERPTS RELATED TO JAMMU & KASHMIR AND INDIA FROM THE FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE DAKAR "REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL (13-14 MARCH 2008)

56. The Summit Conference reaffirmed its support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their legitimate right to self-determination, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. It called for the full implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the OIC Mission led by the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. It called for the respect of the human rights of the Kashmiri people and the withdrawal of security forces from Indian occupied Kashmir. It urged India to allow the visit of an OIC fact-finding mission to the Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir as well as other international human rights organizations in order to verify human rights conditions in Indian-occupied Kashmir.

57. The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir. It took note of the Memorandum presented by the True Representatives of the Kashmiri people and reaffirmed the OIC's commitment to promote the just and peaceful solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

58. The Conference appreciated Pakistan's commitment to the ongoing Composite Dialogue with India and the flexibility shown by Pakistan in moving forward towards the resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute through sincerity, flexibility and courage. It called on India to positively reciprocate in order to arrive at a just and final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute as the core issue of their conflict. The Conference commended Pakistan for its continuing efforts to create and sustain an enabling environment for the Composite Dialogue with India.

59. The Conference expressed deep sympathy with the people of Jammu and Kashmir who have suffered great human, material, social, economic, and environmental losses as a result of the disastrous earthquake of October 8, 2005. It expressed gratitude for the contributions made by the international community, especially the OIC Member States, for relief and rehabilitation of the earthquake victims and encouraged them to continue to provide necessary assistance in future. It appealed to the Member States and Muslim institutions to grant scholarships to the Kashmiri students in different universities and institutions in OIC countries.