

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4328
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008
REVIEW OF RELATIONSHIP WITH PAKISTAN
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has reviewed its relationship with Pakistan in view of the recent changeover of Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any talks have been held or views exchanged between the two countries in regard to bilateral relations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by India to have more harmonious relationship with that country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

- (a)&(b) Government have congratulated the new Government in Pakistan on its assumption of office and reiterated India's commitment to peace, friendship and good neighbourly relations with Pakistan and to resolve all issues bilaterally through dialogue.
- (c) & (d) It has been agreed that External Affairs Minister will visit Islamabad on 21 May 2008 to review the 4th round of the Composite Dialogue. The visit of External Affairs Minister will be preceded by the visit of Foreign Secretary on 20 May 2008.
- (e) The several steps taken to normalise relations between the two countries since the beginning of the Composite Dialogue in 2004 have resulted in a considerable improvement in relations between India and Pakistan.