

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:227

ANSWERED ON:18.02.2009

STATEMENT OF BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY ON KASHMIR

Chaudhary Shri Pankaj;Subba Shri Moni Kumar;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a recent statement made by the Foreign Secretary of Great Britain linking the Kashmir problem as the root cause of terrorist attacks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the Government of Great Britain in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the response of the Government of Great Britain in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (d) Government are aware of the views expressed by the Foreign Secretary of Great Britain. In official talks with him, it was unequivocally conveyed that it is false and wrong to link Kashmir to the Mumbai attacks and other terrorist related incidents. The Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs also made it clear that Mr. Miliband is entitled to his views, which are clearly his own. India is a free country and, even if we do not share his views, he is free to express them. However, we do not need unsolicited advice on internal issues in India like J&K.