

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2437
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009
RELEASE OF TERRORIST BY PAKISTAN
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an accused in the Mumbai terrorist attack has been released recently by the Pakistan authorities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the adverse impact on Indo-Pak relations as a result thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) Yes.

(b) Hafiz Saeed, is the head of the Jamat-ud-Dawa, an organization listed by the United Nations Security Council under UNSC Resolution 1267, as being an affiliate of the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban and mentioned as an alias of the Lashkar-e-Taiba. He is himself specifically listed as linked to these terrorist groups. He is accused of being involved in the Mumbai terrorist attack. Pakistan had placed Hafiz Saeed under house-arrest with effect from 12th December 2008 subsequent to his listing under UNSC Resolution 1267. On 2nd June 2009, Lahore High Court quashed this detention order and ordered his release.

(c) Government has expressed its disappointment and regret at the release of Hafiz Saeed notwithstanding his background and Pakistan's international and bilateral obligations.

(d) & (e) His release raised serious doubts over Pakistan's sincerity in acting with determination against terrorist groups and individuals operating from its territory. Our concerns have been made known to the Government of Pakistan.