

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:469

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010

TALKS WITH PAKISTAN

Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash;Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the year-wise details of the rounds of talks held with Pakistan during the last three years till date;
- (b) the details of the issues raised/discussed by both the countries;
- (c) the levels at which these talks were held;
- (d) the details of talks/meetings likely to be held in the future;
- (e) whether the issues discussed and agreements signed have been implemented;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (g) A statement is placed on the Table of the house.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (G) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.469 REGARDING "TALKS WITH PAKISTAN" FOR ANSWER ON 28-04-2010

(a) to (d): In the last three years, talks between India and Pakistan on a number of issues were held under the framework of the Composite Dialogue and the Joint Commission. After the Mumbai terrorist attack in November 2008, the Composite Dialogue has been paused and no meetings under these mechanisms have taken place. However, meetings between the Prime Minister and the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan and between the External Affairs Minister and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan have taken place on the margins of multilateral events after November 2008, besides meetings between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan. In these meetings, India has reiterated the need for Pakistan to fulfill its repeated assurances, including those given at the highest level, not to allow the use of territory under its control for terrorism directed against India. Pakistan has assured us that action will be taken against the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attack. A year-wise list of meetings held between India and Pakistan during the last three years is at Annexure 1.

In the Foreign Secretary-level talks held in New Delhi on 25-02-2010, India reiterated the need for Pakistan to fulfill the assurances given by its leaders not to allow the use of territory under Pakistan's control for terrorism directed against India. The Foreign Secretary of Pakistan conveyed the desire of his Government to make all possible efforts for a successful conclusion of the Mumbai attack trial which is ongoing in Pakistan. The two Foreign Secretaries agreed to remain in touch.

(e) to (g): The Dialogue process has strengthened people-to-people contacts, as a result of the establishment of several transport linkages between the two countries and people-centric Confidence Building Measures including Cross-LOC Trade and Travel. The Agreement on 'Reducing the Risk from accidents relating to Nuclear Weapons was signed in February 2007. There has been some progress on humanitarian issues such as signing of the Consular Access Agreement in May 2008 and release of some prisoners and fishermen.