

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:598
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010
INDO- PAK PRIME MINISTERS TALK
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there have been any bilateral talks between the Prime Minister of India and his Pakistani counterpart recently to improve the bilateral relations between the two countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this is likely to bring any change in the foreign policy of the two countries in the near future; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) to (d) Prime Minister of India met with Prime Minister of Pakistan on the sidelines of SAARC Summit in Thimphu on April 29, 2010. The two Prime Ministers agreed that relations between the two countries should be normalized, and channels of contact should work effectively to enlarge the constituency of peace in both countries. Prime Minister emphasized to Prime Minister of Pakistan the various issues of concern to India, issues relating to terrorism, the rise in infiltration, and the slow progress in the trial of the perpetrators of the Mumbai Terrorist Attack. Prime Minister told Prime Minister Gilani that India was willing to discuss all issues of concern with Pakistan and to resolve all outstanding issues through dialogue. However, the issue of terrorism was holding back progress. Prime Minister Gilani said that Pakistan was serious about prosecuting the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attacks and that all efforts were being made to bring the trial of these individuals to a speedy conclusion. Prime Minister Gilani said that Pakistan would not allow Pakistan territory to be used for terrorist activity directed against India. Both the Prime Ministers charged their Foreign Ministers and Foreign Secretaries with the responsibility of working out the modalities of restoring trust and confidence in the relationship and thus paving the way for a substantive dialogue on all issues of mutual concern.