

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:624

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010

INDO- PAK RELATIONS

Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Sule Supriya

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether for the first time, US has pointed out to both India and Pakistan that terror is the real issue for Indo-Pak talks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether US has also assured that its aid and arms will not be used against India by Pakistan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) No. This being a bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan, the issues and agenda are mutually discussed and jointly identified by the Governments of India and Pakistan themselves. The US Administration has consistently stated that they recognize that the bilateral issues between India and Pakistan should be addressed bilaterally between India and Pakistan.

(c) & (d) We have conveyed our concerns to the US side regarding diversion of US military aid meant for counter insurgency operations by Pakistan towards acquiring conventional weapons. The US Government has assured India that they are sensitive to India's concerns.

Government has also consistently drawn the attention of the United States and other countries to the need for proper benchmarks and accountability to prevent the diversion of assistance provided to Pakistan for use in its military build up against India.

The US Government has assured Government of India that US assistance would be monitored keeping India's concerns in mind.