

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3995
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2010
INDIA S ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN
Patil Shri A.T. Nana

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pakistan has been persuading Afghanistan's President Karzai to include Taliban militia in his Government and President Karzai has almost given in to its persuasion;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the far-reaching effects of Pakistan's efforts to negate India's role in Afghanistan; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to protect India's interests in Afghanistan?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Participants in the Kabul Conference, which was co-chaired by President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, reiterated the 'redlines' for the peace and reintegration process, namely renunciation of violence, absence of links to international terrorist organisations, respect for the Afghan Constitution, and willingness to join in building a peaceful Afghanistan.

(c) & (d): India is both a neighbour of Afghanistan, as well as one of the major partners in Afghanistan's reconstruction and development. Our constructive role in Afghanistan has been deeply appreciated by the people of Afghanistan, as brought out by a number of recent opinion polls in that country. Both the international community and the Government of Afghanistan have conveyed that they believe that India has an important role to play in Afghanistan. India remains committed to assisting the people and Government of Afghanistan as they build a peaceful, pluralistic, democratic and prosperous country.

Government closely monitors developments in Afghanistan. India has conveyed to its international partners, including the Government of Afghanistan, that any process of reintegration in Afghanistan should only include those individuals who abjure violence, have no links with terrorist groups, and are willing to accept the democratic and pluralistic values of the Afghan Constitution. The process should be Afghan led, inclusive and transparent. External interference in the reintegration process would be detrimental both for its success and for the future of a democratic, stable, pluralistic and prosperous Afghanistan.

Government has consistently raised with its international partners, including the Government of Afghanistan, the issue of existence of terrorist sanctuaries in the region which target India and other countries. The Communique issued after the Kabul Conference also referred to combating terrorism by ending support, sustenance and sanctuaries for terrorists.

Government is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's interests.