

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2510

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010

RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Balram Shri P.;Mahato Shri Narahari;Ponnam Shri Prabhakar;Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been able to prevail upon Pakistan and other neighbouring countries, to maintain peace in the region and resolve the disputed pending issues, bilaterally;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the status of efforts made by India in maintaining peace in the region?

Answer

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

(a) to (b): India is committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan and other neighbouring countries through dialogue. During a visit to Islamabad in July this year, External Affairs Minister (EAM) along with Pakistan's Foreign Minister reviewed the current state of bilateral relations and discussed steps to promote trust and confidence. India has advocated a step-by-step, graduated and forward looking approach to expanding dialogue to cover all issues of mutual interest and concern. Pakistan's Foreign Minister has accepted EAM's invitation to visit Delhi at a suitable date to be decided through diplomatic channels.

(c): Ensuring a peaceful and secure neighbourhood is central to India's foreign policy objectives. Government constantly monitors the prevailing and emerging situation in the neighbourhood.