

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3600

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009

MEETING BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Singh Shri Uday Pratap

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan met on the sidelines of G-8 outreach meeting in Trieste, Italy recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the discussions held by them and the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the benefits that are likely to accrue as a result of said meeting?

Answer

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

(a) Yes.

(b) During the meeting the leaders reviewed the current status of India-Pakistan relations. The External Affairs Minister conveyed the sentiments of our Prime Minister that we stand ready to meet Pakistan more than half way to utilise and harness the potential that exists in India-Pakistan relation for mutual benefit while stressing on the need to address centrally the reasons for the stress in the relationship and the primary cause of this is the terrorist attacks on India, by elements based in Pakistan.

(c) Such bilateral meetings take place at the margins of multilateral conferences and are useful in highlighting issues of concern to us to counterparts from other countries.