

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1548
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013
TALKS WITH PAKISTAN
Raghavendra Shri B. Y.; Tagore Shri Manicka

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to resume talks with Pakistan in view of the formation of new Government in that country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to resume the dialogue by undertaking visits by the Prime Ministers of both the countries and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the proposals received, if any, from Pakistan in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Government welcomed the public articulated commitment by the newly elected Prime Minister of Pakistan to seek a relationship with India defined by peace, friendship and cooperation. Prime Minister called the Pak Prime Minister on May 12, 2013 and sent his Special Envoy to Lahore on May 27, 2013. Subsequently Prime Minister also received the Pakistan Prime Minister's Special Envoy in New Delhi on July 5, 2013.

(c) & (d) India's commitment to resolve all outstanding issues with Pakistan, through a peaceful bilateral dialogue in an environment free from violence and terror has been also conveyed to the newly elected Prime Minister. In this regard upholding the sanctity of the Line of Control, which is the most important confidence building measure between the two countries, is vital. Unprovoked incidents on the Line of Control by the Pakistan Army, naturally will have consequences for our bilateral ties. Pakistan must also show determined action to dismantle the terrorist networks, organizations and infrastructure and show tangible movements on bringing those responsible for the Mumbai terrorist attack in November 2008 to justice quickly.