

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:363
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
TALKS WITH PAKISTAN
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of number of the rounds of talks held with Pakistan on various issues during the last three years till date, year-wise;
- (b) whether the agreements signed/understandings made are being observed in letter and spirit by Pakistan;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Pakistan has invited India for talks to settle the differences over Kashmir issue and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the response of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 363 REGARDING "TALKS WITH PAKISTAN" FOR ANSWER ON 19.02.2014

In the last three years, two rounds of Secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan were completed on eight issues under the resumed dialogue that commenced in April 2011. The third round of resumed dialogue began with the Commerce Secretary level talks in September 2012 in Islamabad.

During the resumed dialogue India has reiterated to Pakistan that it must fulfill its commitment, given at the highest level, not to allow the use of its territory or territories under its control for terrorism directed against India in any manner. It is our expectation that the Government of Pakistan would bring to justice quickly all those involved in the Mumbai Terror Attacks, including those currently facing trial in the Anti-Terrorism Court, Islamabad

Amongst the outcomes of the resumed dialogue are the signing of a new visa agreement and the commitment by Pakistan for establishing a normalized trading relationship with India, including by granting India MFN status. All provisions of the new Visa Agreement, except the provision for permitting group tourism, were operationalised by April 2013. During the Commerce Secretary level talks in Islamabad in September 2012 both sides developed an agreed roadmap for normalization of bilateral trade. However, Pakistan has not been able to implement the steps it had committed to undertake in the roadmap.

A part of the territory of Jammu and Kashmir remains under the forcible and illegal occupation of Pakistan. Under the Simla agreement signed between the two countries in 1972, India and Pakistan have committed to resolving all outstanding issues including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir through a peaceful bilateral dialogue. Such a dialogue to be meaningful necessarily requires an atmosphere free of terror and violence.