

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4378

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009

SINO-US JOINT STATEMENT

Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Sino-US joint statement made a controversial reference to India and its relations with Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The US-China Joint Statement issued on 17 November 2009 during the visit of President Obama to China states that "the two sides welcomed all efforts conducive to peace, stability and development in South Asia. They support the efforts of Afghanistan and Pakistan to fight terrorism, maintain domestic stability and achieve sustainable economic and social development, and support the improvement and growth of relations between India and Pakistan."

With regard to the Joint Statement, Government of India issued a statement on November 18, 2009 that: "Government of India is committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan through a peaceful bilateral dialogue in accordance with the Shimla Agreement. A third country role cannot be envisaged nor is it necessary. We also believe that a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan can take place only in an environment free from terror or the threat of terror."

During the recent State visit of Prime Minister to Washington, the US Administration assured the Government of India that they believe there is no role for any third country in the bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan.