

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2417
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015
DISCUSSION ON KASHMIR IN UK
Singh Shri Hukum

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the British House of Commons has discussed the political and humanitarian situation in Kashmir and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the response of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) A debate on the "Political and humanitarian situation in Kashmir" was held in the UK House of Commons on Sep 11, 2014. Around 20 MPs attended/participated in the debate.

The Government of India has expressed its concern on the issue at different levels with the UK Government, which has stated that, in a Parliamentary Democracy they do not have control over Parliamentary process and over decisions of Parliamentarians to express their views on any matter.

Government's consistent and principled position is that the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Union of India. A part of the territory of the State is under the forcible and illegal occupation of Pakistan. Under the Simla Agreement, India and Pakistan are committed to resolving all outstanding issues, including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, through a peaceful bilateral dialogue. There is no role whatsoever for a third party.