

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3616

ANSWERED ON:18.03.2015

COMBATING TERRORISM

Sigriwal Shri Janardan Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to sign agreements with various countries to tackle/ combat terrorism and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether France has expressed willingness to share information on terrorists to India and if so, the details of co-operation decided by both the countries in this regard;
- (c) whether Indo-US counter terror group has held any meeting recently and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the various measures taken by the Government to check and prevent cross border terrorism?

Answer

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

(a) India has entered into Joint Working Groups (JWGs) on Counter-Terrorism (CT) with 22 countries and two international organizations, namely, the European Union (EU) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). These Groups have proved useful for exchange of views and threat perceptions, sharing of experiences and best practices, capacity building, and facilitating agency-to-agency cooperation. The Government, based on developing situations, also considers entering into JWGs with new countries/ groups.

(b) India and France have a very active mechanism of counter-terrorism co-operation including a JWG on CT which meets regularly. The last Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism between India and France was held in Paris on June 20th, 2014 and included, among other things, discussions on multilateral & bilateral cooperation and mechanisms to fight against terrorism, including sharing of intelligence and combating of financing of terrorism.

(c) No meeting of the JWG on CT with USA has been held recently. India has however proposed to hold such a meeting in New Delhi in the latter half of this year and is awaiting a confirmation from the US side.

(d) The Government of India, in coordination with the State Governments concerned, has adopted a multi-pronged approach to contain cross-border infiltration, which includes, inter-alia, strengthening of border management through multi-tiered deployment along international borders/ Line of Control and infiltration routes, construction of border fencing, improved use of technology, better intelligence and operational coordination, synergizing intelligence flow to check infiltration and proactive action against terrorists within the country.

In addition, there is a close and effective coordination amongst intelligence agencies at the Centre and the State levels. The Intelligence inputs about possible designs and threats are shared with the State Governments concerned on a regular basis. The Multi Agency Centre (MAC) has been strengthened and re-organized to enable it to function on 24x7 basis for real time collation and sharing of intelligence with other intelligence agencies and States, which ensures seamless flow of information between the State and the Central agencies. This has resulted in busting of many terror modules, thus neutralizing major terror attack plans.