

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4731
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2015
DETENTION OF TERROR MASTERMIND
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Islamabad High Court has declared the detention of the mastermind of 26/11 attacks, Z.R. Lakhvi, illegal and ordered his release;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has summoned the Pakistan High Commissioner in Delhi and conveyed displeasure over the Islamabad High Court order; and
- (c) the further steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) On December 17, 2014 Anti Terrorism Court Rawalpindi granted bail to Zakir ur Rehman Lakhvi in the Mumbai terror attack case. On December 19, 2014 the Government of Pakistan detained Zakir ur Rehman Lakhvi under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Act. On March 13, 2015 the Islamabad High Court quashed this detention and ordered Lakhvi's release. The Pakistani High Commissioner in Delhi was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs the same day. India's sense of outrage at the release of Zakir ur Rehman Lakhvi, one of the key accused in the Mumbai terror attacks was conveyed. It was conveyed to Pakistani High Commissioner that this goes against Pakistan's professed commitment to combat terrorism, including its recently stated policy of not differentiating amongst terrorists. On April 10, 2015 the Lahore High Court quashed a second MPO detention order issued by the Provincial Government of Punjab; Lakhvi was released from Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi on April 11. Indian High Commissioner met with Pakistan Foreign Secretary on April 10, 2015 itself and registered our strong concerns at the release of one of the prime accused in the Mumbai Terrorist Attack of 2008. It was underlined that this has reinforced the perception that Pakistan has a dual policy on dealing with terrorists, making a distinction between those who have carried out attacks on India or are posing a threat to India are being dealt differently. It was emphasized that this is a most negative development in so far as bilateral ties are concerned.