

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1735

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2014

CANCELLATION OF FOREIGN SECRETARY TALKS

Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan was cancelled in the recent past and if so, the details and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the continuous violations of ceasefire by Pakistan have come to the notice of the Government after cancellation of the said bilateral talks and if so, the details thereof along with the response of both the countries thereto;
- (c) whether the United Nations has advised both the countries to focus on resolving their differences peacefully via dialogue;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the two countries thereto; and
- (e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to boost bilateral talks and resolve differences between the two countries amicably?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As follow up to the decision taken in the meeting between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan on 27 May 2014 in New Delhi, Foreign Secretary level talks were scheduled for 25 August 2014 in Islamabad. The talks were, however, cancelled following Pakistan High Commissioner's meeting with separatist leaders from Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan has been resorting to unprovoked firing along the Line of Control (LOC) and the International Boundary (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir which has been effectively countered by Indian security forces.

(c) to (e) Under the Simla Agreement (July 1972), India and Pakistan are committed to respecting the sanctity of the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, and to resolve all outstanding issues including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir through a peaceful bilateral dialogue. There is no role whatsoever for a third party.

Government remains committed to establishing good neighbourly ties with Pakistan and resolving all outstanding issues through a bilateral dialogue as envisaged under the Simla Agreement. An environment free from violence and terrorism is necessary for meaningful dialogue.