GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 5233

ANSWERED ON:05.04.2017

Gilgit Baltistan as New Province of Pakistan

SURESH KODIKUNNIL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is planning to declare the strategic Gilgit-Baltistan region in the disputed Pakistan occupied Kashmir as the fifth province;

(b)if so, the details thereof including the reaction of the Government on such move of the Pakistan Government;

(c) whether the Government of India propose to take up the matter in the UN and other international forums strongly for an appropriate action; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRSbe pleased to state:-

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The Government has seen reports that a committee headed by Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan has recommended that the so-called “Gilgit-Baltistan” area of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir, which is under illegal occupation of Pakistan, be given “provisional provincial status”.

It is our consistent position that the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. Any action to alter the status of any part of the territory under the illegal and forcible occupation of Pakistan has no legal basis whatsoever and is completely unacceptable. Pakistan should immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation. Further, any step to alter the status of Pakistan occupied territory cannot hide the grave human rights violations, exploitation and denial of freedom in these areas.

Our position in this matter has been made clear to international interlocuters.