

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 900

ANSWERED ON:07.02.2018

NSA Level Talk with Pakistan

BALASUBRAMANIAM SENGUTTUVAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Security Advisors of India and Pakistan have been speaking to and meeting with each other very frequently despite the heightened cross-border firing and acrimonious exchanges over Jadhav's detention and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether such meetings were held in Bangkok and Zavidovo in Russia and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any concrete results have been produced in consequence of such meetings that would potentially reduce the threat of war in the tinderbox of South Asia and make for prevalence of peace and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether despite all the good overtures on the part of India, Pakistani Army and its spy wing, ISI are incurably and relentlessly committed to fomenting terror in India and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether due to the souring of diplomatic relations with Nepal it has become a hotbed for India specific terrorist activities and if so, the details thereof?

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (d) There are established channels of communications at various levels, including at the level of National Security Advisors, to discuss operational issues such as cross-border terrorist infiltration and border management. In this context, the National Security Advisors met in Bangkok in December 2017.

At these meetings the Indian side has strongly taken up the core issue of cross-border terrorism fomented by Pakistan. Strong concerns have been shared and protests registered at the incidents of unprovoked cross-border firings and support to cross-border terrorist infiltration from Pakistan.

Pakistan has been asked to abide by its commitment not to allow any territory under its control to be used against India in any manner; to respect the sanctity of the International Boundary and Line of Control; and to adhere to the 2003 understanding on ceasefire along the International Boundary and the Line of Control in order to maintain peace and tranquillity.

It has been made clear that the Government is committed to working towards normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan, and addressing all outstanding issues bilaterally and peacefully in accordance with Simla Agreement and Lahore declaration. However, any meaningful dialogue can be held only in an atmosphere free of terror, hostility and violence. Onus is on Pakistan to create such a conducive atmosphere. Till then, India will continue to take firm and decisive steps to respond to cross-border terrorism.

(e) India's age old ties with Nepal are unique and special and characterized by open border and close people to people contacts. There have been instances of misuse of open border by unscrupulous elements. Both sides however have been coordinating on security and border management issues through various institutionalized bilateral mechanisms such as Home Secretary-level talks, Joint Working Group on Border Management, Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues, and coordination between the security forces. The Government of Nepal has assured that it will not allow its territory to be used for any activity inimical to India.