

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government accept the U.S. assessment in the matter; and
- (d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government's assessment of the level of infiltration is based solely on the information and evidence that it receives from the ground. No country is in a better position to assess the level of infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir than India. There is a broad convergence of views between India and the international community, including the United States, that cross-border infiltration and terrorist incidents continue in Jammu and Kashmir and that President Musharraf must deliver on the promises to permanently end infiltration and dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism, including the camps, before a dialogue could begin between India and Pakistan.

Naming of PoK as Azad Kashmir by World Bank

2420. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recently reported World Bank aid for a development project in Pak-occupied Kashmir (PoK), named by the Bank as Azad Kashmir;
- (b) if so, whether Government had taken up the issue with World Bank, on the ground that the area formed part of the Sovereign Indian territory which was under forced-illegal occupation of Pakistan;
- (c) if so, the World Bank's response and reaction thereto; and
- (d) what other steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Recently, the World Bank Board

of Directors approved a loan package to support Pakistan's reform programme. This included a loan of \$ 20 million for "Community infrastructure and services project credit" in PoK.

(b) At the time of the discussion at the World Bank Board in December 2001, on Pakistan's Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy, Government of India had raised objection over the use of the word 'Azad Jammu Kashmir'¹ in the document. It was stated that the so called 'Azad Jammu Kashmir*' refers to sovereign Indian territory under the illegal occupation of Pakistan. The Government does not recognise the existence of any such region by this name.

(c) and (d) On December 3, 2001, the World Bank management issued a disclaimer, wherein it was clarified that the World Bank doesn't intend to pass any judgement on the legal or other status of the territory to which the aid was granted.

Terrorists' telecommunication tower in PoK

† 2421. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a list of telecommunication towers, being used by terrorists in Pak-occupied Kashmir, was handed over to America's Deputy Secretary of State Mr. R. Armitage by Government;

(b) if so, the number of towers included in the list; and

(c) the purpose of handing over the said list and whether any action has been taken after handing over the list; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Information regarding infrastructure, including communication centres, in Pakistan and Pakistan controlled territories, for support to terrorism is appropriately shared with other countries as a part of the global effort against international terrorism.

Pakistan's continued involvement with and support for cross-border terrorism is widely recognised and most countries have called upon Pakistan to fulfil its commitment to end cross border infiltration and terrorism.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.