

[18 JULY, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) the steps Government propose to take at their level to check the atrocities against minorities and help them living normal life ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. Government have seen the report titled. "Pakistan main alpsankhyakon ka jeena doobhar" appearing in Rashtriya Sahara on May 27, 2002. Discrimination against minority communities in Pakistan is built into the very structure of the Pakistan State. This has been witnessed in the practice of separate electorates for minority communities, and the use of Pakistan's "anti-blasphemy laws" to persecute religious minorities in Pakistan. The international community is fully aware and finds unacceptable the influence of religious extremism and obscurantism in Pakistan, and the existence of anti-minority practices and policies of the State.

Efforts to check cross-border terrorism

212. SHRI S. K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the type of diplomatic and military efforts which Government have undertaken to check and tackle the problem of cross-border terrorism in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : Government are firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to defeat Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism. Government have been appropriately and effectively bringing to the attention of the international community facts pertaining to Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in J & K and other parts of India. The matter has also been raised during high level interactions with the world leaders, who have expressed strong support for India's firm commitment and determination to resist terrorism until it is decisively crushed, rejecting any justification for terrorist violence.

On 21 December, 2001, in view of Pakistan's obvious lack of concern with regard to the terrorist attack on India's Parliament Government announced some measures that included the recall of its High Commissioner from Islamabad, and suspension of the services of the Samjhauta Express and the Delhi-Lahore bus service with effect from 1st January 2002. Further measures were announced on 27th December 2001, which included a reduction of the strengths of the respective High Commissions in the two countries by 50%, restriction on the movement of officials of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi and their family members, to the municipal limits of Delhi; and the suspension of over flight facilities to Pakistan or Pakistan Airlines from 1st January 2002. On 31st December, India also handed over to Pakistan, a list of 20 fugitives from law who have been given safe haven in Pakistan, for them to be apprehended and handed over to India so that they could be brought to justice for their crimes. Government also undertook necessary military measures along the international border an LoC.

President of Pakistan has now committed that cross-border infiltration would be ended on a permanent basis, the territory of Pakistan would not be allowed to be used for terrorism anywhere in the world, and that no organisation in Pakistan will be allowed to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir.

Indo-China relations

†213. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the area of Indian land under Chinese occupation;

(b) whether Government assume that relations with China are improving despite clandestine Chinese military aid to Pakistan; if so..the basis of the same; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.