

[18 JULY, 2002]

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parts of India. Government have apprised the international community of Pakistan's involvement with terrorism directed against India.

The State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. Government are firm in their resolve to take all necessary measures to defeat Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism and preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country. There is widespread international consensus that terrorism cannot be justified on any ground, it must be eradicated wherever it exists and Pakistan must, on a permanent basis, end cross border infiltration and terrorism directed against India.

U.S. Role in Indo-Pak Conflict

206. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.S.A. is acting as the arbiter in the Indo-Pak conflict;

(b) whether the current U.S. pressure urging restraint through the barrage of visits by U.S. officials, would put pressure on Government influencing its decision; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Pakistan's fulfilment of its commitment to premanently end cross-border terrorism against India is an essential pre-requisite for the normalisation of the situation.