

stepped up violence in the State and other parts of the country. 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.

Threat from Jehadi Groups

2928. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government believe that Jehadi Groups fix a common threat to India, Russia, China and also United States of America;

(b) whether Government are in touch with some of these countries to meet this threat; and

(c) if so, their response thereto and whether any joint strategy has been considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Terrorism is a serious threat to the security of nation states, as well as to regional and international security. Many terrorist groups are based in Pakistan, and have close links with Pakistan's official agencies. These groups, and Pakistan, project cross border terrorism as Jihad. This is self-serving and perverse.

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 Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India. Members of the international community now openly acknowledge Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism.

During the visit of President of the Russian Federation, H.E. Vladimir Putin, to India in October 2000 the subject of international terrorism was discussed at length. India and the Russian Federation signed a Declaration on Strategic Partnership which refers to cooperation between the two countries in the fight against international terrorism, separatism, organized crime and illegal

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trafficking in narcotics. India and the United States have agreed to intensify their cooperation to combat international terrorism. As part of this process, the two sides have established a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism to coordinate approaches and actions to combat international terrorism. Our concerns about international and cross border terrorism have also been conveyed to the Chinese side.

Government will continue to take all necessary measures to defeat Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism and to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Setting up of Indian Cultural Centres across the world

2929. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to establish a University and Cultural Centres across the World in the interest of Indian diaspora;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government consider such a proposal, to bring Indians in other countries close to Indian Cultural traditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) During the 6th Convention of the Global Organisation of the People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) held in New Delhi on 6th and 7th January, 2001, a resolution was passed urging the Government of India to start a University in India for Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs). GOPIO delegates also requested Government to establish Cultural Centres in all places with large PIO concentrations where such Centres do not exist.

Government of India has all along been keen to deepen linkages between India and Non Resident Indians (NRIs) and PIOs. A High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora has, therefore, been constituted, headed by Dr. L.M. Singhvi, MP and former High Commissioner to U.K., as Chairman *w.e.f.* 1.9.2000 to address all the