

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) On 05 January 2009, the Government of Pakistan was given material linking the Mumbai attack of 26-29 November, 2008 to elements in Pakistan.

(c) Our High Commissioner in Pakistan was informed officially on 12th February 2009 of Pakistan's response. In their response, the Pakistan authorities have confirmed that elements in Pakistan were involved in the terrorist attack on Mumbai and informed us of actions taken by them in this regard. Pakistan has also sought further information and material relating to the investigation.

Negotiation with China over Mumbai attack

442. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan had given a blank cheque to China, authorizing it to negotiate with India on its behalf to deal with the aftermath of Mumbai terrorist attacks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of China had discussed this matter with our Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Government has seen media reports quoting Pakistan Foreign Minister as having conveyed to the visiting Chinese Vice Foreign Minister, Mr. He Yafei in Islamabad on 29 December 2008 that Pakistan had given a blank cheque to China to go to India for negotiations to deal with the aftermath of the Mumbai terrorist attacks. These reports have not been confirmed either by the Government of Pakistan or the Government of China.

Agreements regarding terrorism

†443. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed or proposes to sign any agreement with other countries in the wake of increasing terrorist attacks till date; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) India is fully engaged with international efforts, both multilaterally and through bilateral mechanisms to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. As part of multilateral process India participates in counter-terrorism activities of intergovernmental bodies such as SAARC,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

BIMSTEC and ARF. Upon our approach along with that of other countries the United Nations Security Council designated the Pakistan based Jamaat-ud-Dawa as a terrorist organisation under its Resolution 1267. India has also established Joint Working Groups on counter-terrorism with twenty-five countries. India's cooperation with the international community on counter terrorism will be actively pursued.

Indian ships in Exclusive Economic Zone

444. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India was forced to move out its three ships engaged in Oil-Explorations from Block No. 22 of its Exclusive Economic Zone on protests by Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details of Bangladesh protests, and the Indian claims on the EE Zone; and

(c) Government's reaction and response to the incidents?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The demarcation of maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh is under discussion bilaterally. A round of Technical Level Talks on Maritime Boundary was also held at Dhaka from 15-17th September, 2008. India had lodged a protest for some of the oil blocks offered by Government of Bangladesh in their recent 3rd round of bidding as they were impinging on our maritime boundary. Bangladesh has, in turn, also lodged some claims with India on the maritime boundary issues. Both sides are negotiating to resolve the issue peacefully.

Maltreatment to Indians in Pakistan

445. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mrs. Asha Patil W/o Late Khaled, who had gone to Pakistan to live with her husband has returned to India after her in-laws harassed, following the death of her husband has complained that the Indian High Commission did not help her out during the period of her turmoil;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Mrs. Asha has also stated that there are other such Indian who are subject to maltreatment in Pakistan; and

(d) if so, whether Government has issued any instruction to Indian High Commission in Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government is in receipt of information that Smt. Asha Patil had expressed her dissatisfaction that the Indian High Commission in Pakistan did not respond to her plea for support during the hard times she faced in Pakistan after the death of her husband.

(b) The matter was enquired into and it was found that there was no basis to it.