

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.