

[21 November 2001] RAJYA SABHA

Afghanistan becoming hub of international terrorism

360. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Afghanistan is just one of the 32 countries serving as hubs of international terrorism;

(b) whether there is no let up in terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir even after declaration of war against terrorism; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by India to tackle terrorism on its own?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) The Taliban controlled areas of Afghanistan had emerged as one of the epi-centers of international terrorism.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has been adopting a comprehensive approach to curb terrorism in J & K which includes, *inter-alia* strengthening the border management, appropriate security force actions in the hinterland, gearing up the intelligence machinery, security measures for vital installations and for minorities and remote and scattered villages, improved technology, weapons, equipments for security forces, greater functional integration through a frame-work of Operations Groups and Intelligence Groups at UHQ and lower levels etc. The security situation is regularly reviewed in the UHQ and at lower levels with a view to adopting appropriate strategies and tactics and making dynamic deployments of security forces to counter the threats of the terrorists.

India has also apprised the international community of Pakistan's sponsorship of support to terrorism directed against India. There is now wide-spread international recognition of the need to eradicate terrorism wherever it exists and that there can be no justification for terrorism.