

Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs only for those conferences, where the subject matter is of political, semi-political, communal or religious in nature or is related to human rights and/or the participants are from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

(c) The guidelines specify the cases where the nodal/ administrative Ministry can grant clearance and those in respect of which it needs to consult Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs before granting such clearances.

(d) This is on security consideration.

Terrorists activities in Jammu and Kashmir

341. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir have increased since 7th October, 2001 after the U.S. started attacks on Taliban, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that after the U.S. attack on Taliban structure, foreign mercenaries active in Jammu and Kashmir started leaving Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) what further steps have been taken by Government of India to tackle this issue of cross-border terrorism, especially in the emerging situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir. There has not been any perceptible change in the terrorist related violence in Jammu and Kashmir since 7th October, 2001.

(b) No such general movement of foreign mercenaries has taken place, though some infiltration and exfiltration of terrorist have been going on.

(c) To contain terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the Government

has adopted a multi-pronged approach, which includes, *inter-alia*, strengthening border management to check infiltration/exfiltration, pro-active action against terrorists within J&K, gearing up the intelligence machinery, greater functional integration through an institutional frame work of Operation Groups and Intelligence Group of UHQ at all levels, improved technology, weapons and equipments for security forces, action as per law against over ground supporters of the terrorists and continued review and refining of tactics and strategies to meet the changing contours of cross-border terrorism.

Steps are being taken to flush out terrorist and curb their activities through measures including close vigil on border, establishment of naka parties in depth or deeper areas to check infiltration/exfiltration, pickets, intensive patrolling etc.

In addition, Government has used every opportunity to apprise the International Community including the United States, of Paskistan's support to and sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India. Following the terrorist fidayeen attack on 1st October 2001 on J&K assembly building in Srinagar, the Prime Minister had conveyed to the United States and other friendly countries, the sense of anguish felt by the people of India at this terrorist attack.

Preparedness against acts of terrorism

342. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering some measures to increase its degree of preparedness against acts of terrorism and is acquiring greater expertise in disaster management in the aftermath of September 11, terrorist strikes in the United States; and

(b) if so, what are those measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO:): (a) and (b) Central Government has been regularly sensitizing the States