

Sharing of Intelligence Information

†3543. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Pakistan Governments have agreed to share intelligence information related to Islamic extremists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) benefit to accrue to India from sharing intelligence information on extremists between it and Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) PM met Prime Minister of Pakistan on the sidelines of the NAM Summit in Sharm-El-Sheikh on 16-7-09 and both leaders agreed that the two countries will share real-time, credible and actionable information on any future terrorist threats.

(c) If real-time, credible and actionable information were received from Pakistan, it could be of utility in countering terrorist threats.

India Pak Joint Statement during NAM Summit

3544. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various political parties and their leaders have expressed concern over the latest India-Pakistan joint statement issued in Egypt during the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit;

(b) if so, whether the Prime Minister has surrendered himself on the role in Balochistan before Pakistan and issued a statement jointly; and

(c) if so, the further reaction of Government/Prime Minister on such joint statement made during the NAM summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) Yes. Concerns have been expressed by some parties.

(b) No.

(c) Government's position has already been stated by the Prime Minister in Parliament on 17th July, 2009.

Visit of US Secretary of State

3545. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N. K. SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether the US Secretary of State has recently visited India and discussed many issues with political leaders and experts;
- (b) if so, the details of discussions held with her and outcome thereof;
- (c) whether Government has discussed the issue of terrorism in the country; and
- (d) if so, the response of the US Secretary of State in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) The U.S. Secretary of State, Mrs. Hillary Clinton visited India during 17-21 July 2009. She called on Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and Chairperson, UPA and held delegation level talks with the External Affairs Minister. EAM and Secretary Clinton reviewed bilateral relations and jointly announced a new agenda for Indo-US bilateral cooperation in (i) science technology, health and innovation; (ii) strategic cooperation; (iii) energy and climate change; (iv) education and development; and (v) economics, trade and agriculture. The revised dialogue architecture establishes new formalized interaction in the fields of health, education, women's empowerment, climate change and strategic issues. Discussions on regional and global issues of common concern including the challenge of terrorism, nuclear proliferation, climate change, the global financial crisis and UN reform were also held during the visit.

(c) and (d) EAM and Secretary Clinton discussed cooperation in counter terrorism and reaffirmed the commitment of both their Governments to build on recent increased coordination in counter terrorism. They also expressed their commitment to early adoption of a UN Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism which would strengthen the framework for global cooperation in addressing terrorism.

Rate of fee payable to consultants

3546. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government proposes to revise the rate of fees payable to consultants after the implementation of Sixth Pay Commission; and
- (b) the entitlement with regard to leave etc. for the consultants appointed in the Ministries/Departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. All cases of engagement of Consultants in Government of India is regulated under the provisions as envisaged in General Financial Rules, 2005. It provides for hiring of external professionals, consultancy firms or consultants for a specific job which is well defined in terms of content and time frames for its completion and lays down fundamental principles applicable to all Ministries or Departments regarding engagement of Consultants. GFRs do not specify any rate of fees payable to a Consultant.