

(a) the pre-requisites for a viable dialogue process between India and Pakistan at the highest levels;

(b) the outcome of the meetings of our Prime Minister and President of Pakistan twice and our Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Pakistan thrice and the foreign Ministers of both countries during the past two years; and

(c) whether the composite dialogue process has been counter-productive and Pakistan has used it to divert attention from its promotion of terrorism within India by finding fault of India's approach to Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) Government has reiterated on several occasions that the door for dialogue with Pakistan has never been closed and meaningful dialogue with Pakistan is possible only in an environment free of terror or threat of terror. The Composite Dialogue, which had been resumed in 2004 based on Pakistan's express assurance not to allow its territory for terrorist activity in any manner, addresses eight subjects, including Peace & Security including Confidence Building Measures and Jammu & Kashmir. It has been paused since the Mumbai terrorist attack in November 2008. In various meetings with the leaders of Pakistan since then, India has reiterated the need for Pakistan to fulfill its repeated assurances, including those given at the highest level, not to allow the use of territory under its control for terrorism directed against India. Pakistan, in response, has assured that action will be taken against the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attack.

US-Pakistan Nuclear Deal

2955. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of reports in the media that Pakistan and USA are negotiating a Nuclear Deal, similar to the deal signed by the latter with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a step would be detrimental to our interests;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (e) Government have seen media reports about a possible nuclear deal between the US and Pakistan. In this context, Government have taken note that US officials have stated recently that they are focused on helping Pakistan meet its energy needs by other means.