

(d) Government's intentions in respect of India-Pakistan talks in future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) In the last six years, talks between India and Pakistan were held on a number of issues under the framework of the Composite Dialogue and the bilateral Joint Commission. After the Mumbai terrorist attack in November, 2008, the Composite Dialogue has been paused and no meetings under these mechanisms have taken place. However, meetings between the Prime Minister and the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan and between the External Affairs Minister and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan have taken place on the margins of multilateral events after November, 2008, besides meetings between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan. EAM met Pakistan Foreign Minister on July 15, 2010 in Islamabad. Foreign Secretaries met in February 2010 in New Delhi and in June, 2010 in Islamabad. In these meetings, India has reiterated the need for Pakistan to fulfil 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 has assured us that action will be taken against the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attack.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) met the Foreign Minister of Pakistan on July 15, 2010 in Islamabad. The Ministers had useful and cordial exchange of views on all issues of mutual concern. The Ministers reviewed the current state of bilateral relations and discussed steps to promote trust and confidence in keeping with the mandate given by the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan during their meeting in Thimphu in April 2010. The talks enabled both the countries to develop a better understanding of each other's views. Pakistan Foreign Minister also accepted EAM's invitation to visit Delhi at a suitable date to be decided through diplomatic channels.

Nuclear weapon policy

1238. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 1988 Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan for the Nuclear-Weapons-Free and Non-violent World Order continues to remain the 'sheet-anchor' of the external dimension of Government's nuclear weapons policy;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to raise the Action Plan in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) for reference to the UN Disarmament Commission in Geneva;

(c) if not, whether Government proposes to pursue this matter in the First Committee at the forthcoming UNGA commencing September, 2010; and

(d) if so, whether this would be on the basis of the updated version in treaty language formally presented by the President of the Indian National Congress to the UN Secretary General in 2001?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) Government remains committed to the objectives of the 1988 Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan for Nuclear Weapon Free and Non-violent World Order. This was stated on numerous occasions in the UN General Assembly including in the statement made by the Prime Minister on 26 September 2008 as well as in statement made by the Indian delegation in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly dealing with Disarmament and International Security. Similarly, reference to the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan was included in the Working Paper on Nuclear Disarmament submitted by India to UN General Assembly in 2006. India's National Statements in recent years at the Conference on Disarmament Proposes to pursue this matter in the First Committee in the forthcoming UN General Assembly commencing in September, 2010.

(d) Government has not taken a decision on any updated version of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan of 1988.

UN Millennium Development Goals for slum dwellers

1239. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken any specific initiatives to improve education facilities for children living in slums;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether India is on track to meet UN Millennium Development Goals, especially target 4 of goal 7—which deals with the improvement in lives of slum dwellers and details thereof; and

(d) the proportion of slums that have been upgraded to decent, affordable housing and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)-components of Jawarharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) envisage implementation of 7-point charter with provision for basic services to the urban poor including security of tenure at affordable prices, improved housing, water supply, sanitation and ensuring delivery of other already existing universal services of the Government for education, health and social security.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. India is on track to meet UN Millennium Development Goals dealing with the improvement in lives of slum dwellers. UN-Habitat report entitled “State of the World’s Cities 2010/2011-Bridging the Urban Divide” has revealed that India has lifted 59.7 million people out of slum conditions since 2000. Slum prevalence fell from 41.5 per cent in 1990 to 28.1 per cent in 2010. This is a relative decrease of 32 per cent.