

Indo-Pak talks on peace and security

*68. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the recent Indo-Pak talks focused on peace and security;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) External Affairs Minister met the Foreign Minister of Pakistan in New Delhi on July 27, 2011. The Ministers agreed that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security and reiterated the firm and undiluted commitment of the two countries to fight and eliminate this scourge in all its forms and manifestations. Both sides agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation on counter-terrorism including among relevant departments as well as agencies to bring those responsible for terror crimes to justice. The Ministers attached importance to promoting peace and security, including Confidence Building Measures, between India and Pakistan and agreed to convene separate expert level meetings on Nuclear and Conventional Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), in Islamabad in September, 2011.

The Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met in Islamabad on June 23-24, 2011 for bilateral talks on Peace and Security including CBMs; Jammu and Kashmir and promotion of friendly exchanges. The talks were held in a frank and cordial atmosphere. The issues of Peace and Security, including CBMs, were discussed in a comprehensive manner. Both sides emphasized the importance of constructive dialogue to promote mutual understanding.

Employment in private sector

*69. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of employment of Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the private sector is abysmally low as compared to other sections;
- (b) whether Government is aware of the survey conducted by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government would consider steps, including reservation in private sector, to improve the percentage of SCs in the private sector employment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) Information about caste/community of private sector employees is not collected by the Govt.

(b) and (c) Based on a sample survey conducted by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), of the manpower mix among its member companies in 22 States/UTs, representation of Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs) employees in CII companies has been projected as follows:

Region	Total No. of Employees (in lakhs)	Estimated % of SC/ST
Southern	5.8	16.2
Northern	4.4	22
Western	23	16
Eastern	1.6	24

The above survey did not cover states of North-Eastern region.

(d) and (e) A high level Coordination Committee has been constituted in October 2006, to carry forward the dialogue with Industry on affirmative action in the private sector. The Coordination Committee has been holding meetings with apex chambers from time to time.

Private airport at Aranmula

*70. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for establishing a private airport at Aranmula has been received by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether final approval for the project has been given; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, and the time frame by which Government proposes to give clearance to the project?