

Legislation in USA to declare Pakistan A terrorist state

3847. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Bill to declare Pakistan as a terrorist state is introduced in the House of Representatives of United States of America (USA);

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether there is any possibility of this Bill going through US Parliament;

(d) whether there are any other countries which have also taken steps for declaring Pakistan as terrorist state;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) how India looks at this move and to what extent such moves help to isolate Pakistan globally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) Yes. On 9 March 2017, Congressman Ted Poe, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Terrorism, Non-Proliferation and Trade; and Congressman Dana Rohrabacher introduced a Bill in the U.S. House of Representatives titled "Pakistan State Sponsor of Terrorism Designation Act of 2017".

(b) The Bill lists out findings regarding support by the Government of Pakistan, and the ISI in particular, to terrorist groups and acts of terrorism; and directs the U.S. Secretary of State to make a determination regarding whether the Government of Pakistan, including any of its agents or instrumentalities, committed, conspired to commit, attempted, aided, or abetted: (i) any of specified acts constituting an act of or support for international terrorism, or (ii) any other act that constitutes an act of international terrorism. Thereafter, the Secretary of State is required to submit, within 30 days after making such determination, to appropriate congressional committee a report containing either a determination that Pakistan is a state sponsor of terrorism, or a detailed justification as to why Pakistan's conduct does not meet the legal criteria for such designation.

(c) The Bill has been referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee for consideration. It will have to go through the legislative process before becoming law.

(d) and (e) As per the information available, the US is the only country where such a Bill is under consideration in the respective legislative body.

(f) Government has, at various levels, highlighted the cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan and the support and patronage enjoyed by the internationally-designated terrorists and terrorist organisations in Pakistan. There is evolving consensus within the international community in the matter. The SAARC Summit could not be held in Islamabad in November 2016 due to view among the SAARC Member States that the prevalence of violence and terrorism in the region precludes conducive environment for hosting of SAARC Summit. Similar terrorism related concerns are reflected in the outcome documents of various regional/international forums including BRICS Summit, BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Initiatives, G-20, East Asia Summit, ASEAN-India Summit and the 6th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia Istanbul Process on Afghanistan.

Strategic dialogue with China

3848. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent strategic dialogue with China was positive and constructive as it has urged to take a balanced and objective view;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the two sides had open and useful exchanges on Afghanistan, the United Nations, counter terrorism and nuclear issues;

(d) whether in some cases, both sides found common ground and in others it was felt that dialogue should continue further; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (e) Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar held the first restructured India- China Strategic Dialogue with his counterpart Mr. Zhang Yesui, Executive Vice Minister in the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 22 February 2017 in Beijing. The Strategic Dialogue was preceded by senior official level dialogues between India and China covering issues of Afghanistan, multilateral diplomacy including counter- terrorism, nuclear issues as well as bilateral relations. During his visit, Foreign Secretary also called on State Councillor Mr. Yang Jiechi and Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi. During these meetings, the two sides held in-depth discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern. The Dialogue was useful in conveying to the Chinese side our priorities and concerns and also gaining from them an appreciation of their understanding of the world situation and in what manner we could work together.