

(b) The next SAARC meeting at Dhaka in January, 2005 will monitor the implementation of the decisions arrived at in the Summit of January 2004 and the 25th Council of Ministers' Meeting in July, 2004.

(c) Issues of peace and security under SAARC were briefly raised by the delegation of Pakistan during the meeting. India's position is that as per Article X of SAARC Charter, bilateral and contentious issues should be excluded from the deliberations of SAARC.

Bilateral talks with Pakistan

2445. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any bilateral negotiation have taken place with Pakistan in the recent past at the Secretary and Ministerial levels;

(b) details of the issues discussed at the respective levels;

(c) whether in the past Pakistan was provided with a list of twenty fugitives hiding in that country with a request to extradite them in order to bring them to justice in India;

(d) was the issue of extradition of these fugitives included in the recent discussions/interactions with the Pakistani authorities;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Bilateral discussions on a number of subjects have been held between India and Pakistan within the framework of the Composite Dialogue. President Musharraf's reassurance in the Joint Press Statement of January 6, 2004, not to permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner, allowed the process of the Composite Dialogue to be initiated in February 2004. The schedule of meetings that was agreed to during the Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan on 18 February 2004 has been maintained. During the meetings between the border security forces (March 24—27, 2004), and the drug control authorities (June 15-16, 2004) of the two countries, *inter alia*, discussed issues related to drug trafficking and smuggling of contraband, border management, illegal

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border crossing, and repair and maintenance of border pillars. Expert Level talks on Nuclear Confidence Building Measures were held in New Delhi on June 19-20, 2004. The two sides agreed to improve communication links between the two DGMOs, establish a hotline between Foreign Secretaries and to work towards MoU on pre-notification of flight testing of missiles. The Foreign Secretaries of the two countries met in New Delhi on June 27-28, 2004 and discussed "Peace and Security including CBMs" and "Jammu and Kashmir", within the framework of the Composite Dialogue. The two sides proposed a comprehensive framework for CBMs aimed at initiating and enhancing communication, coordination and interaction and exchanged views on carrying the process forward in an atmosphere free from terrorism and violence. Talks on the remaining six subjects of the Composite Dialogue *i.e.* Siachen, Sir Creek, Tulbul Navigation Project, Economic and Commercial Cooperation, Terrorism and Drug Trafficking, and Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in various fields, were held in the last week of July and first half of August, and views were exchanged on these issues. During discussions on Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in various fields, wide-ranging proposals were made for promoting friendly exchanges and cooperation in the fields of art, culture, archaeology, education, science and technology, youth affairs and sports, media and tourism. India also made a series of proposals for trade promotion, transit, cooperation in the fields of agriculture, petroleum and natural gas, banking, information technology, telecommunications, postal services, civil aviation, shipping, capital market, etc. between the two countries. A meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries, to review the overall progress, is scheduled to be held in India on September 5-6, 2004. It would be preceded by a meeting between the Foreign Secretaries on September 4, 2004.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Government of Pakistan has not acknowledged their presence in their country.

(f) Does not arise.