

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Indian diplomats are being ill-treated by the Pakistani intelligence agencies, especially after the said incident;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) and (b) An alleged incident of harassment involving an official of the High Commission of Pakistan was reported in January, 2019. The allegations were denied by the Pakistani official. The victim also did not file any police complaint.

(c) to (e) Government of India has, from time to time, taken up the incidents of harassment, aggressive surveillance and intimidation of the officials of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. Pakistan side has been asked to ensure safety and security of our diplomatic Mission and its diplomatic and consular officials.

The Government has made it clear that respective diplomatic Missions should be allowed to function normally in keeping with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961 and the bilateral Code of Conduct signed by the two countries in 1992.

On 30 March 2018, India and Pakistan mutually agreed to resolve matters related to the treatment of diplomats and diplomatic premises, in line with the 1992 Code of Conduct for the treatment of diplomatic/consular personnel in India and Pakistan. The implementation of this understanding is regularly followed up through diplomatic channels.

Bilateral talks with Pakistan

1459. SHRI G.V.L. NARASIMHA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is committed to the stated policy of talks and terror cannot go together for bilateral talks with Pakistan;

(b) what demonstrable action that Government has sought from Pakistan to show that it has addressed India's concerns over terrorism; and

(c) what punitive steps Government has taken so far, since suspension of bilateral dialogue with Pakistan to dissuade Pakistan for its support to terrorism and what further actions are under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (c) The Government desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan and is committed to addressing all outstanding issues bilaterally and peacefully in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration. However, any meaningful dialogue can only be held in an atmosphere free from terror, hostility and violence. The onus is on Pakistan to create such a conducive atmosphere.

India has asked Pakistan to take credible and irreversible steps to end cross-border terrorism and dismantle terrorist infrastructure in territory under its control. Till then, India will continue to take firm and decisive steps to respond to all attempts at cross border terrorist infiltration and supporting cover fire by Pakistan forces.

Following major cross-border terror attacks in India, the Indian forces carried out counter-terror surgical strike against terrorist launch pads along the Line of Control in September, 2016; and pre-emptive counter terrorism air strike against Terrorist camp in Balakot, Pakistan in February, 2019. After the Pulwama cross-border terror attack in February 2019, India withdrew the Most Favoured Nation status accorded to Pakistan and imposed a Customs Duty of 200% on all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan. Government of India suspended cross-LoC trade from 19 April, 2019 on receiving reports that cross-LoC trade routes are being misused by Pakistan based elements for funnelling illegal weapons, narcotics and fake currency.

Globally, as a result of Government's persistent efforts, there is enhanced concern in the international community at terrorism emanating from Pakistan, including the continuing activities of internationally designated terrorist entities and individuals such as Jamaat-ud Dawa (JuD), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad, Hizbul Mujahideen. International community strongly condemned the cross-border terrorist attack in Pulwama in February, 2019. Many countries have called upon Pakistan to not allow its territory to be used for terrorism in any manner.

Many terrorist entities and individuals who find shelter in Pakistan and are also engaged in terrorism against India have been proscribed by the United Nations (UN), the European Union and other countries. On 01 May 2019, the United Nations 1267 Sanctions Committee designated Masood Azhar, the leader of Jaish-e-Mohammad, as a UN proscribed terrorist. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) at its Plenary in June 2018, notified Pakistan in the 'Grey List' due to continuing terror financing related concerns, including with respect to the UN proscribed terrorist entities like LeT, JuD and Falah-i-Insaniyat Foundation.

India's call to condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestation; zero tolerance to terrorism; rejection of any justification for an act of terror; delinking terror from religion; need for all forces believing in humanity to unite in fight against terrorism has found greater acceptance among the international community, and is reflected in a number of outcome documents issued after bilateral Summit meetings with various countries, and at regional and multilateral fora, such as Shangai Cooperation Organization; G20; BRICS, among others.

Education for children of tribal communities

1460. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Right to Education Act is not able to address and focus on education of children belonging to tribal, charvaha and roaming communities;
- (b) if so, whether Government has any special programme to impart education to such children;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) to (d) Section 3 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE), 2009 provides that every child of the age of six to fourteen years shall have the right to free and compulsory education in a neighbourhood school till completion of elementary education. The RTE Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory elementary education of equitable quality to all children; irrespective to their classes, categories and communities.

Section 6 of the Act provides that 'the appropriate Government and local authorities shall establish, within the area or limits of a neighbourhood, a school, where it is not already established, within a period of three years from the commencement of the Act. The RTE Act places a compulsion on the State to ensure that no child from the weaker sections or disadvantaged groups is discriminated against in any manner or prevented from pursuing and completing elementary education.

Funding to the States and UTs was provided under the Centrally Sponsored Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for universalisation of elementary education upto 2017-18. The