

States, the facts regarding Pakistan's continued support and sponsorship of cross border terrorism and infiltration directed against India and the dangers inherent in Pakistan continuing to be the epicenter of international terrorism. USA and many of the other countries have repeatedly called upon Pakistan to end cross border infiltration and to dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism.

Suspension of Pakistan from Commonwealth

2628. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan is to remain suspended from Commonwealth; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The recommendation that Pakistan should be suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth was endorsed by Commonwealth Heads of Government at Durban in November, 1999. The decision to maintain the suspension was taken unanimously by the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group, of which India is presently a member, at its meeting in London on 19-20 May, 2003.

Anchoring of American warships at Kochi

2629. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that American warships returning from Iraq were permitted entry into Kochi Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the duration of their stay at Kochi;

(c) whether permitting this ship at Kochi was against the spirit of the country's stand on the Iraqi war; and

(d) Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government permitted two American warships to visit Kochi port during June 19-21, 2003 for rest and crew liberty following extended operations by these warships in support of U.S. operations in Afghanistan.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Military sale to Pakistan by Germany

2630. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Germany had lifted its ban on military sales to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) There has been no formal ban by Germany on military sales to Pakistan Germany however continues to have a very restrictive approach, in accordance with its own legislation, on export of arms and dual use items/technologies to Pakistan.

Regarding civil war in African countries

†2631. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several African countries like Liberia and Congo, etc., are engaged in a fierce civil war;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that 33 lakhs people have died in Congo alone and Liberia is still bearing the brunt;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that India being a leader of Non-Aligned Movement has failed to play its role in solving those problems; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.