

Government remains fully committed to take all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interest in accordance with its assessment of threat to its security.

Indo-US Talks Regarding CTBT

3874. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether an Indo-US official level meet was held in New Delhi to discuss among others, the Nuclear issues like the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks; and

(c) what other issues were discussed therein and the decision, if any arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The two sides hold regular dialogue at ministerial and official levels in pursuit of the shared commitment to complete the process of qualitatively transforming India-US relations. The two sides discuss strengthening cooperation in counter-terrorism, defence, economic and commercial relations, science and technology, health, energy and environment, besides regional and international issues of mutual concern, including Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Bush'S instruction to Pakistan to end cross-border terrorism

3875. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. President George Bush has again asked on 9th March, 2002 the Pak military ruler Parvez Musharraf to end cross-border terrorism and not to play games about terrorism and to create conditions for meaningful dialogue with India on bilateral issues; and

(b) if so, what was Paks response and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Media reports attributed these remarks to an unnamed senior official of the U.S. Administration. U.S. President George Bush and senior Administration officials have, on a number of occasions, publicly called on Pakistan to take steps to end cross-border terrorism against India and take action against terrorist organisations based in Pakistan.

(b) There is clear evidence on the ground that Pakistan has begun backtracking on its stated commitment to fight terrorism. Pakistani actions have made it very clear that Pakistan will continue its policy of sponsoring cross border terrorism in India. The Pakistani leaders, including its President, have also reverted to Pakistan's time-worn and untenable formulations on terrorism, including seeking to justify continued terrorist violence in Jammu & Kashmir. Government believes that Pakistan must stop cross-border terrorism against India and act on the list of 20 fugitives given to Pakistan to demonstrate its sincerity in supporting the international campaign against terrorism and creating an atmosphere for a meaningful dialogue with India.

Extradition treaty between India and Pakistan

3876. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to Islamabad in connection with the SAARC meeting of Information Ministers, Pakistan indicated its intention to enter into an Extradition Treaty with India for exchange of fugitives;

(b) whether the Pak-authorities also impressed upon their desire for talks with India on various bilateral issues; and

(c) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Pakistan has not made any formal proposal to India for an extradition treaty.

In comments to the media, in early March, the Pakistan Foreign Minister suggested that the conclusion of an Extradition Treaty