

UN role in facilitating post war political arrangements and reconstruction are currently under discussion among members of the UN. India is engaged in these consultations. It is also understood that some Indian companies are in contact, with companies that have reportedly been awarded reconstruction contracts.

(c) Government is not aware of any accurate estimate of the total value of reconstruction work.

Prime Minister's statement regarding Iraq war

5042. SHRI UDAI PRATAP SINGH :

SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has stated in Srinagar that Iraq war is a warning to both India and Pakistan; and

(b) whether it implies that there is direct or indirect U.S. threat to India and Pakistan to negotiate on Kashmir and cross border terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The Prime Minister made his remarks in the context of his view that war cannot solve problems.

(b) No.

U.S. pressure on India for negotiations with Pakistan

5043. SHRI UDAI PRATAP SINGH :

SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. administration is putting pressure on Indian Government to start negotiations with Pakistan on the question of Kashmir;

(b) whether the Prime Minister's offer of talks with Pakistan in Srinagar is a result of this "U.S. initiative"; and

(c) what is response of the Pakistan Government to the Indian offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Pakistan's Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali telephoned the Prime Minister on 28 April, 2003 to express appreciation and to thank him for his