

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2015

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000

TALKS ON TERRORISM WITH ITALY

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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Italy have jointly decided to tackle the issue of global terrorism in the context of the hijacking of Indian Airlines plane;
- (b) if so, whether both the countries have held talks in this regard;
- (c) if so, whether Afghanistan situation was also discussed;
- (d) if so, the broad features of the discussions held between both the countries;
- (e) whether both the countries have decided to work together in curbing the terrorists activities;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and (g) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Wide ranging discussions were held with the Italian Foreign Minister during the visit of the External Affairs Minister to Italy on 11-12 January, 2000. These included talks on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues including, inter-alia, global terrorism and the situation in Afghanistan. It was agreed that both countries would cooperate bilaterally and in multilateral fora to combat the scourge of international terrorism. The two countries also agreed to work closely to facilitate exchange of information about possible terrorist activities, organised crime and drug trafficking.

(g) Government would be implementing the provisions of the bilateral 'Agreement on Cooperation to Combat Terrorism, Organised Crime and Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances', which was signed between India and Italy on 6 January, 1998. The agreement provides for constitution of a bilateral committee to be chaired by Home Ministers of the two countries, constant and regular exchange of information and mutual consultations. India's draft convention on international terrorism will be discussed in the UN General Assembly in September 2000. India and Italy have agreed to have further consultations on this matter through their respective Permanent Missions to the UN.