

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:41
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
INDO-US JOINT WORKING GROUP ON TERRORISM
P.R. KHUTE;RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and US after the second meeting of the Joint Working Group have agreed on a range of measures to enhance cooperation in tackling the menace of international terrorism and extremism based on fundamentalism and drug trafficking;
- (b) if so, the details of the measures agreed upon;
- (c) the steps since taken thereon;
- (d) whether there is any difference of opinion between the two countries concerning the definition of terrorism; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the steps proposed to arrive at a mutually agreeable definition?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) In the Second meeting of the India-US Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism, held in New Delhi on 25-26 September 2000, the two sides agreed to share experience, exchange information, and coordinate approaches and action to combat international terrorism.

The Joint Working Group expressed support for India's proposal for a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the UN, and agreed to work towards that end. The Group also welcomed the addition of narco-terrorism and drug trafficking to its mandate. The two sides are taking steps, bilaterally and in multilateral forums, including through coordination at the UN in New York, to implement the decisions of the Joint Working Group. Discussion in the Joint Working Group is aimed at strengthening mutual understanding thus enhancing practical cooperation in combating international terrorism.

(d) No, Sir. Following the Second meeting of the Group the two sides have issued a joint statement on the subject.

(e) Does not arise.