

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:363

ANSWERED ON:19.04.2000

CLINTON VISIT

CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE;RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of various agreements signed between India and the USA during the visit of U.S. President Bill Clinton here;
- (b) whether, Indo-Pak relations, Terrorism, South Asia's Security Scenario, Sanctions, Patents, CTBT, India's claim for permanent seat in the Security Council, Kashmir among other subjects came up during discussions; (
- (c) if so, the observations of Bill Clinton thereon;
- (d) the extent to which the observations are in tune with Indian perceptions on the said issues;
- (e) the estimated expenditure incurred on the welcome and stay of his entourage;
- (f) whether both the countries have agreed to establish a hot line; (g) if so, the details thereof; and (h) the extent to which the visit boosted the bilateral relations?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) During the visit of the US President to India from March 21-25, 2000, PM and President Clinton signed a Joint Statement on 21st March in New Delhi, outlining their vision of a closer and qualitatively new relationship in the 21st Century and the architecture of regular, wide-ranging institutional dialogue between India and the United States. India and the US also signed an Agreement to set up an Indo-US Science and Technology Forum to facilitate scientific contacts and collaboration between the two countries. The two sides also issued a Joint Statement on intensifying co-operation in Energy and Environment and a Joint Statement setting out the terms of reference for the Commercial Dialogue. In addition, several agreements and MOUs were also signed between the private sectors of the two countries.

(b) The visit of President Clinton provided the two sides the opportunity to discuss all bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern, in a warm, friendly and constructive atmosphere.

(c) & (d) The Vision Statement signed by Prime Minister and President Clinton on 21st March expresses the views on a range of bilateral and international issues. It emphasises the commonality, the shared values and shared interests between the two countries.

The two sides expressed their determination to intensify co-operation in combating terrorism. Prime Minister and President Clinton shared concerns over the setback to democracy and growing extremism in Pakistan. President Clinton also acknowledged that there are elements within the Pakistani Government that have supported those who engaged in violence in Kashmir. They also agreed that problems between the two countries in South Asia should be resolved by the countries themselves through peaceful bilateral dialogue. President Clinton stated that the US will not mediate on Kashmir. He also asked Pakistan to help create conditions for a bilateral dialogue to succeed. There is now a better appreciation by the United States of India's restraint in dealing with persistent cross-border provocation.

India and the United States also agreed to strengthen the international security systems, including the United Nations and support its peacekeeping efforts.

The two sides also assessed positively their ongoing dialogue on disarmament and non-proliferation issues and agreed that this should continue for further increasing mutual understanding and narrowing differences on these issues. President Clinton acknowledged that India alone can take decisions on its security needs and recognised that the decision on CTBT will be based on the outcome of our democratic process.

President Clinton stated that he was deeply impressed by all that he had seen and heard in India.

(e) The bills for the expenditure incurred by Government have not been received so far.

(f) & (g) As part of the architecture of regular, wide-ranging institutional dialogue between India and the United States, the two sides

have agreed that the Prime Minister of India and the President of the United States will hold regular bilateral `Summits` in alternating capitals or elsewhere, including on the occasions of multilateral meetings. They will remain in frequent contact on telephone and through letters.

(h) Prime Minister and President Clinton agreed to chart a new and purposeful direction in bilateral relations and to create a closer and qualitatively new relationship, based on equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit.

They agreed to enhance bilateral co-operation in trade and commerce, finance and investment, information technology and other knowledge-based industries, energy and environment, science and technology, and health, and to work jointly for the promotion of peace and prosperity in the world in the 21st Century. The architecture of regular, wide-ranging institutional dialogue established during the visit is geared towards meeting these objectives. In addition to regular bilateral `Summits` between Prime Minister and the US President, there will also be regular dialogue on foreign policy and security matters at the ministerial and official levels. An institutional framework for dialogue on economic and commercial issues, counter-terrorism, energy and environment, and science and technology has also been established.