

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4914
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
CONDITION LAID DOWN FOR TALKS WITH PAKISTAN
BABUBHAI KHIMABHAI KATARA;CHANDRESH PATEL KORDIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have categorically stated that no dialogue can be held with Pakistan till democracy is restored in that country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of Pakistan thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a)-(c) We strongly support the international trend towards democracy and along with other like minded countries including those in the Commonwealth, we regret and condemn the subversion of democratic governance in any country through force and unconstitutional means.

India desires a relationship of peace, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan. It is for this purpose that, at our initiative, the Composite Dialogue Process was put in place. The abandonment of Pakistan's state sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India and its hostile propaganda are essential ingredients for any dialogue.