

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1079

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000

TALKS WITH U.S. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE

ALE NARENDRA;BHIM PRASAD DAHAL;JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV;RAVI PRAKASH VERMA;REENA CHOUDHARY

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

- (a) whether he had talks with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Mr. Strobe Talbott during his recent visit to London;
- (b) if so, whether the issues related to disarmament, non-proliferation, CTBT, Nuclear issues combat global terrorism and to declare Pakistan as a terrorist State were discussed during the talks;
- (c) whether the UK and other big powers were also invited to joint the Joint Working Group on terrorism;
- (d) if so, the details of their response, country-wise;
- (e) the details of other main issues discussed and outcomes of the talks thereof;
- (f) whether any agreement has been signed during the talk; (g) if so, the details thereof; and (h) the steps taken by the Government to implement the decision taken during the talks?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir. The meeting with US Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott, took place in London, on January 18-19, 2000 to continue the ongoing Indo-US dialogue on security, non-proliferation, disarmament and related issues.

(b) In addition to security, non-proliferation and disarmament issues, the two sides also discussed bilateral relations and regional developments including the recent hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC-814. The two sides also discussed ways to combat terrorism and agreed to establish a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism.

(c) & (d) The Joint Working Group is a forum for India and the United States to intensify their bilateral co-operation to combat international terrorism. It is not intended to invite other countries to join this bilateral forum. India is separately in touch with other major countries on this issue.

(e), (f) & (g) In addition to the issues mentioned in [b] above, the two sides also agreed to hold the first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism in Washington in early February and to work together to ensure that the perpetrators of Indian Airlines flight IC-814 are brought to justice. The two sides also discussed arrangements to plan for the visit to India by President Clinton. Mindful of the goal of establishing a multi-faceted partnership between India and the United States, the two sides agreed on the need to intensify and broaden Indo-American discussions in areas such as trade & investment, science & technology, energy and environment.

(h) The first meeting of the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism took place in Washington D.C. on February 7-8, 2000. The two sides are also in the process setting up a Joint Working Group to intensify co-operation in the fields of energy and environment sector. President Clinton is scheduled to visit India for five days from March 20th.