

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:567
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2000
FOREIGN MINISTER-US SECRETARY OF STATE MEETING
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he met the US Secretary of State during his recent visit at Warsaw;
- (b) if so, the main issues discussed between the two;
- (c) whether this was the first meeting after US President visit to India and adoption of Vision Statement;
- (d) if so, further strategy chalked out by the two leaders for fulfilment of Vision Statement;
- (e) whether any new issue cropped out during the discussion; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

[a] Yes, Sir. External Affairs Minister and the US Secretary of State met on 26th June in Warsaw on the margins of the First Ministerial Meeting of the recently launched Community of Democracies.

[b] The two sides discussed and exchanged views on all bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern.

[c] Yes, Sir. During the visit of the US President, the two sides had agreed upon architecture of a wide-ranging institutional dialogue, as part of the Vision of a new relationship between India and the United States in the 21st century outlined by Prime Minister and the US President. The Dialogue architecture envisages regular Foreign Minister level meetings.

[d] The two reviewed the implementation of the Dialogue Architecture and expressed satisfaction at the progress made. In this context, they also discussed the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister to the United States in September at the invitation of the US President.

[e] & [f] The two sides also discussed the situation arising from some personnel of the Indian contingent to the UN Peacekeeping Operations in Sierra Leone being held hostage. The US Secretary of State praised the long and distinguished record of India's participation in UN Peacekeeping Operations. She complimented the quality of Indian troops and described their participation in Sierra Leone as essential. She expressed deep concern at the holding of Indian Peacekeeping troops as hostages, and expressed full support of the US Government in securing their release.