

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:360
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003
RESUMPTION OF AIR LINK WITH PAKISTAN
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the resumption of air link between India and Pakistan has not so far been worked out;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which the air links between India and Pakistan are likely to be resumed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a), (b) & (c) Prime Minister, in his statement in the Parliament on May 2, 2003 offered the resumption of civil aviation links with Pakistan on reciprocal basis. Pakistan Prime Minister, in his statement on May 6, responded partially to this proposal, without indicating clearly the approach to overflights. As resumption of civil aviation links would include direct air services and over flights, a specific confirmation in this regard was sought from Pakistan. Pakistan indicated that the issue could be discussed further at technical level between the civil aviation authorities of the two sides. On June 24, 2003 India conveyed its readiness for early convening of technical level discussions for resumption of civil aviation on reciprocal basis. Pakistan, on July 16, 2003, announced that it is willing to host the talks. Proposal for specific dates for the meeting are awaited from Pakistan.