

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:16
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005
INDO-PAK HIGH LEVEL TALKS
Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar;Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indo-Pak high level talks were held recently;
- (b) if so, the details of issues discussed therein:
- (c) the outcome of the discussions held:
- (d) whether an agreement on Siachen and withdrawal of army from the border has been reached:
- (e) if so, the details in this regard:
- (f) whether during the recent meeting between the Indian PM and Pak President several border related issues were discussed:
- (g) if so, the details and the outcome thereof: and
- (h) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to further strengthen the bilateral ties between the two countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) to (h) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement as mentioned in reply to the Lok Sabha Question No. 16 (Priority-XVI) for answer on 23-11-2005 regarding Indo-Pak High Level Talks

In order to take forward the present India-Pakistan composite dialogue process, India has held many high level meetings with Pakistan. Former EAM, Shri K. Natwar Singh visited Pakistan from 2 to 5 October 2005. He met Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and President Musharraf. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met President Musharraf of Pakistan on September 14 on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York and Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on November 12 in Dhaka on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit.

During these meetings, all bilateral issues of mutual concern were discussed, including that of Siachen. On Siachen, India has conveyed its position that there cannot be any redeployment of troops without authentication of the positions held. Both sides agreed to continue their discussions so as to arrive at a common understanding.

During their meeting in New York, the Prime Minister and President Musharraf reviewed progress in India-Pakistan relations since they last met in New Delhi on April 18, 2005. During the meeting, the Prime Minister emphasized the need for Pakistan to implement fully its assurances that no territory under its control would be used for terrorist activities directed against India.

Government remains committed to the establishment of peaceful, friendly and cooperative relations with Pakistan. Continuous efforts have been made to intensify the ongoing process of confidence building, dialogue, and cooperation with Pakistan. Two rounds of the Composite Dialogue have been successfully completed, and the third round is scheduled to take place from January to July 2006. Wide ranging proposals for confidence building, promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields and enhancing commercial and economic relations have been made by India. Both sides have been able to identify areas of convergence and future cooperation. The process has been taken forward by high-level political contacts; the recent meeting of our Prime Minister with Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz in November 2005 in Dhaka has also facilitated forward movement on the bilateral front.