

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2134
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005
PROPOSAL TO MAKE SIACHIN AS SHANTI SHIKHAR
Kulaste Shri Faggan Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in response to our Prime Minister's offer to make Siachin as 'Shanti Shikhar', the Pakistan President demanded that India vacate its aggression on Siachin; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) The Prime Minister, on his visit to Siachen in June 2005, had said that it was time to make Siachen a symbol of peace. In response, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson had said that India has to vacate the aggression made in 1983 to make Siachen a peaceful area.

(b) India rejects Pakistan's charge of Indian aggression in Siachen. Siachen is one of the subjects being discussed in the framework of the Composite Dialogue. India's position on the Siachen issue is that authentication of the presently held positions has to be the first step before any redeployment of troops is considered.