

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:52

ANSWERED ON:21.02.2006

PEACE TALKS ON J& K

Nayak Shri Ananta;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister had recently invited separatist leaders for peace negotiations on Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) if so, the details of the leaders who participated in the peace negotiations alongwith the details of issues discussed with each of them; and
- (c) the details of the decisions taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) to (c) : Yes sir. The Prime Minister met a delegation of All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on September 5, 2005. During the talks, the Prime Minister reaffirmed his faith in a peaceful resolution of all issues pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated the Government's stance that violence has no role in a democracy. The APHC delegation stressed that an honourable and durable solution should be found through dialogue. It was agreed that the only way forward is to ensure that all forms of violence at all levels should come to an end. It was also agreed to carry forward the dialogue process so that all regions and all shades of political opinion in Jammu and Kashmir are involved.

In pursuance of the talks held by the Hon'ble Prime Minister with the APHC, a meeting of the Joint Screening Committee was held in Srinagar on 3-10-2005 and the cases of persons under detention under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978 were reviewed. The Committee recommended the release of forty four (44) detenues. The State Government accepted the recommendation and issued orders for the release of these persons.

The Prime Minister had a meeting with a six-member delegation led by People Conference Chairman Shri Sajjad Lone on January 14, 2006. The Prime Minister also had a meeting with a delegation led by Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front leader Shri Yasin Malik on February 17, 2006.

The Government considers this as a good beginning and hopes that the dialogue with all the groups in the State will lead to an honourable solution to all issues relating to Jammu and Kashmir.