

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1149

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2006

INDO PAK TIES

Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the remark made by Pakistan President recently at Davos on his disagreement with the Indian approach for improving relations through Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and solution of Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether he also ruled out the possibility of improving economic ties with India as reported in the The Times of India dated January 28, 2006:

(d) if so, the facts of the said matter; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) - (b) Government have seen the media reports about the remarks made by President Musharraf at a Press Conference on 27 January 2006 at the World Economic Forum at Davos. According to the official website of the President of Pakistan, he said as follows: `CBMs have to take their own time but at the same time dispute resolution is there, we very conveniently avoid talking of dispute resolution. CBMs come for dispute resolution, it is not the other way around, you resolve disputes then confidence will come but if you leave the dispute festering I don't know how can you develop confidence I mean It is absolutely impractical and wrong to imagine that disputes can remain but we will have confidence with each other and I am sorry but I cannot imagine this ever to be done so therefore we have to go for dispute resolution`.

(c) - (d) The Times of India dated 28 January 2006 carried a report which quoted President Musharraf saying: `How can we do business together if we are enemies? Nations are individuals, and if we are killing each other, how can we expect other interests to bring us together.` However, there was no such report in the Pakistani media. According to President Musharraf's official website, at the Press Conference in Davos, on trade and economic ties with India, he said, `I do understand that economic benefits of interrelationships between India and Pakistan are tremendous with no doubt in my mind that there is tremendous gain on both sides if we were to interact but at the same time, you must understand that there has been wars between our countries... So unless you resolve or remove the irritants solve disputes it will keep festering and we don't know what the attitude of the future leaders will be. So permanent peace will never come and whatever economy or economic relationship you are talking may get hindered again in the future with changed environment...`

(e) Government believe that India and Pakistan should promote trade and economic relations for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the two countries. India is also committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan bilaterally and peacefully. Government intends to continue with the present process of confidence building, cooperation and dialogue in an atmosphere free from terror and violence.