

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2833

ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006

US MEDIATION IN KASHMIR ISSUE

Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.;Bhadana Shri Avtar Singh;Sajjan Kumar Shri ;Sethi Shri Arjun Charan;Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pakistan has recently requested United States of America again for mediation in resolving Kashmir issue;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the likely impact of the same on the ongoing peace talks between the two countries;
- (d) whether the Government has received any proposals for setting up of a United Kashmir from the US;
- (e) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (f) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) - (b) During the visit of the President of the United States of America to Pakistan in March 2006, the Pakistani President said during a Joint Press Conference on 4th March 2006 that he `did request the President to remain involved in facilitating a resolution of all disputes, including, obviously, the Kashmir dispute.` During the same press interaction, when asked by a journalist about his perceptions on how the Kashmir issue can be resolved, US President Bush said that the `best way for Kashmir to be resolved is for leaders of both countries to step up and lead` and `in order for a deal to get done, it requires commitment at the leadership level. And in my perspective, I've seen the commitment, and the role of the United States is to continue to encourage the parties to come together.` On 27 April 2006, the US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns said in Washington after talks with Pakistan Foreign Secretary that, `... the United States is not a mediator... It's not for the United States to dictate to the people of the region what the settlement should look like.`

(c) Under the Simla Agreement, both India and Pakistan are committed to address bilateral issues peacefully through bilateral dialogue. Jammu and Kashmir is one of the subjects in the framework of the Composite Dialogue. There is no scope for any third party role or mediation.

(d) No such proposal has been received from the US Government.

(e) - (f) Does not arise.