

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:38

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006

EVIDENCE ON MUMBAI BOMB BLASTS

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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has since convinced the US Government with the evidence of Islamabad's involvement in the Mumbai blasts;

(b) if so, the reaction of the US Government thereto; and

(c) the stage at which the peace talks between the two nations stands in the wake of this evidence?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a)-(b): As a part of ongoing dialogue with the US, the issue of cross-border terrorism and the Mumbai blasts has been discussed between the officials of the two countries.

(c): After Mumbai blasts on July 11, 2006, Prime Minister of India and President Musharraf of Pakistan met on September 16, 2006 in Havana and directed their Foreign Secretaries to resume the Composite Dialogue. They also decided to put in place an India-Pakistan anti-terror institutional mechanism. In pursuance of this directive, the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries met in New Delhi on November 14-15, 2006. They agreed to set up a 3-member anti-terror mechanism with a mandate to consider counter-terrorism measures. They also agreed to meet in February 2007 to launch the next round of Composite Dialogue.