

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:169

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006

TALKS WITH PAKISTAN

Chaure Shri Bapu Hari;Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Gawali Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total rounds of talks held with Pakistan on various issues during the last three years, year-wise, till date;
- (b) whether the signed agreements have been implemented;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the third round of Secretary level talks between the two countries is to be resumed in November;
- (e) if so, whether both the countries are also on the verge of finalisation of an agreement regarding the solution of Siachin issue;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the various measures envisaged for improving/strengthening relations between the two countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

a) Three rounds of talks within the framework of the Composite Dialogue have been completed. First round was held from June to September 2004; second round from December 2004 to October 2005; and third round from January to November 2006.

(b)-(c) Yes.

(i) An Agreement on 'Pre-notification of Flight Testing of Ballistic Missiles' was signed in October 2005. It is for giving advance notification of not less than 3 days of the flight test of a proposed ballistic missile test;

(ii) An MOU for establishing a communication link between Indian Coast Guard and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency was signed in October 2005 and ratified in April 2006. This link has been operationalized with effect from 14 November 2006. The purpose is to exchange information concerning Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) violations, pollution incidents in the EEZ, natural disasters, smuggling/drug trafficking, facilitation of maritime security & search operations.

(iii) Agreements on Amritsar-Lahore, Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus services (December 2005) and a train service between Munabao (Rajasthan) – Khokrapar (Sind in Pakistan) (signed in January 2006). All these services have been operationalised.

d) Yes. The review meeting of the third round of the Composite Dialogue was held on 14-15 November 2006.

e) No.

f) Does not arise.

g) Government has been taking various measures to enhance people-to-people contacts and to expand economic interaction. Towards this objective, more transport and communication links have been put in place. Agreements concerning consular access, visas, shipping services, visits to religious shrines and further measures are under discussion. The issues of Prisoners of War (PoWs), fishermen & their boats and prisoners are being dealt with as humanitarian questions.