

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:217  
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006  
REVIVING INDO-PAK JOINT COMMISSION  
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether India and Pakistan have agreed to revive the Joint Commission set up in 1983, which have not met since 1989;
- (b) if so, whether any meetings of the Joint Commission were held to revive the same;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether both the countries have any plans to have separate working groups on S&T, Agriculture, Commerce, Education, etc;
- (e) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (f) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) – (c) The Joint Commission was revived in October 2005 when former EAM visited Pakistan to conclude the second round of the Composite Dialogue. A plenary session of the Joint Commission was held during this visit. The two sides had a meaningful and constructive exchange of ideas on restructuring the Joint Commission and on subjects to be considered under its purview. It was also agreed that the next meeting of the Joint Commission would be preceded by technical level working groups on Agriculture, Health, Science & Technology, Information, Education, IT & Telecommunications, Environment and Tourism.

(d) Yes. As listed at (c) above. There is no working group on Commerce.

(e)-(f) The working groups are headed at Joint Secretary level. All the Working Groups have been set up. Except the groups on Education and Information, other working groups held meetings at different dates in 2006. The groups have agreed to cooperate in their respective fields.