

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2336
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
INDO PAK JOINT ACTION AGAINST TERRORISM
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some of the countries have stated that Pakistan is the centre point of terrorist activities; and
- (b) if so, the reasons for entering into an agreement with Pakistan for a joint action against terrorism?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Government are aware that concerns have been expressed by some countries that some areas and organisations within Pakistan provide sanctuaries for terrorists for cross border activities.

(b) At the meeting between Prime Minister of India and President of Pakistan on September 16, 2006 in Havana both leaders decided to put in place a Joint Anti-Terrorism Mechanism to identify and implement counter-terrorism initiatives and investigations. In the first meeting of the Joint Anti-terrorism Mechanism on 6 March 2007 in Islamabad, the two sides agreed that specific information will be exchanged for

- (i) helping investigations on either side related to terrorist acts and
- (ii) prevention of violence and terrorist acts in the two countries. It is Government's expectation that the mechanism will be of utility in implementing the assurance of 6 January 2004 wherein Pakistan had assured India that it would not permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.