

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3124
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
TALKS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any talks were held between India and Pakistan on the various issues of bilateral relations including Kashmir during the last six months;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether any treaties and agreements were signed between the two countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the issues relating to confidence building measures were discussed in the recent past;
- (f) if so, the details and outcome thereof;
- v(g) whether any specific offer has been made by some other countries in the recent past to mediate in the process negotiations between India and Pakistan; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) The Foreign Secretaries met in Islamabad on March 13-14, 2007 to initiate the fourth round of the Composite Dialogue and to review the third round. Other talks held within the framework of the Composite Dialogue during the last six months include: (i) The Defence Secretary level talks on Siachen on April 6-7, 2007 in Rawalpindi, (ii) Sir Creek talks on May 17-18, 2007 in Rawalpindi, (iii) Secretary (Culture) talks on June 28-29, 2007 in Islamabad, (iv) The Home Secretary-level talks on July 3-4, 2007 in New Delhi, (v) The Commerce Secretary talks on July 31-Aug 2, 2007 in New Delhi, (vi) The Secretary Water Resources-level talks on Tulbul Navigation Project on August 30-31, 2007 in New Delhi. The Foreign Secretaries discussed Peace & Security, including CBMs and Jammu & Kashmir. On CBMs the two sides agreed: (i) to expedite negotiations to conclude an Agreement on Prevention of Incidents at Sea, (ii) to fully observe the ceasefire on the IB, LOC and AGPL, (iii) to conclude and sign an Agreement on Modalities for the Conduct of Quarterly Flag meetings at Sectors to be agreed upon, (iv) conclude and sign a Framework Agreement on Speedy Return of Inadvertent Line Crossers, (v) to conclude an agreement on No Development of New Posts and Defence Works along the LOC and (vi) to propose drafts for new border control guidelines along the International Border. On the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, the two sides agreed (i) to ensure implementation of the already agreed Jammu and Kashmir related CBMs, (ii) to ensure operationalisation of Truck service, (iii) to ensure operationalisation/rationalisation of the five crossing points. To enhance People-to-People Contacts both sides agreed to conclude (i) Bilateral Visa Agreement, (ii) Agreement on Consular Access, (iii) to revise the Protocol on Visits to Religious Places and(iv) that the Judicial Committee on Prisoners would be composed of four judges from each side to ensure humane treatment and expeditious release of prisoners on both sides. On Nuclear CBMs, the two sides decided to hold discussions on security doctrines.

(c)&(d) An Agreement on Reducing the Risk from Accidents Relating to Nuclear Weapons was signed on February 21, 2007 in New Delhi.

(e)&(f) Yes. Details as at Paragraph (b) above.

(g) All issues of mutual concern are being discussed bilaterally between India and Pakistan.

(h) Does not arise.