

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1998
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014
MEDIATION IN KASHMIR ISSUE
Venugopal Dr. Ponnusamy

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has declined all offers of third party mediation in the Kashmir issue; and
- (b) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. RETD. V.K. SINGH)

(a) & (b) Government's consistent and principled position is that the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under the forcible and illegal occupation of Pakistan. Under the Simla Agreement, India and Pakistan are committed to address all outstanding issues including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, peacefully through bilateral dialogue. There is, therefore, no scope for a third party role or mediation in this process.