

>*t35

16.09 hrs.

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER
LAUNCHING OF MILITARY ACTION AGAINST
INDIAN INSURGENT GROUPS BY ROYAL
GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN**

Title: Statement regarding launching of military action against Indian insurgent groups by Royal Government of Bhutan.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have been informed by the Royal Government of Bhutan that they have launched today military action against Indian insurgent groups operating from camps in that country. Sir, Government of India strongly supports this action of the Royal Government of Bhutan.

His Majesty the King of Bhutan had telephonically informed the Prime Minister of the impending action on Friday, 13th December.

The Prime Minister has conveyed to His Majesty the King that the Government and people of India stand firmly and solidly behind the Royal Government of Bhutan at this critical juncture and would provide all necessary support as requested, till the task is completed.

The Indian Army is also taking necessary measures to intercept movement of militants from Bhutan into India.

The Government of India has advised the State Governments of Assam and West Bengal to remain alert to deal with the situation arising out of this action, including sealing the borders and maintaining peace.

The Royal Government of Bhutan has always assured the Government of India that it will not allow its territory to be used for activities inimical to India's interest. The launch of operations against Indian insurgent groups in Bhutan has struck a blow against terrorism and terrorist activities in our entire region.

The action against Indian insurgent groups in Bhutan would prevent further loss of innocent lives by the mindless acts of violence perpetrated by these terrorists. It will promote peace, stability and security in the region and further cement the strong friendship and cooperation between India and Bhutan.
