

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.157  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.12.2018**

**VISIT OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF NORWAY TO JAMMU AND  
KASHMIR**

†\*157.SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the recent visit of former Prime Minister of Norway, Mr.Kjell Magne Bondevik to Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir;
- (b) the organisation or person who invited him to India;
- (c) whether he also had a dialogue with the separatists of Kashmir valley; and
- (d) whether Government has in principle agreed to a third party intervention for the purpose of resolving Kashmir problem?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)**

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 157 REGARDING “VISIT OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF NORWAY TO JAMMU AND KASHMIR” FOR ANSWER ON 27.12.2018**

**(a) to (d)** According to available information, former Prime Minister of Norway Mr.Kjell Magne Bondevik was on a private visit to India at invitation of the Art of Living International Centre (Ved Vigyan Maha Vidya Peeth), Bengaluru. He reportedly visited Jammu & Kashmir on 23 November 2018 and met representatives of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu & Kashmir Youth Development Forum, All Party Hurriyat Conference. Government of India was not involved in organizing the visit and meetings. It has also been reported that he visited Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir from 24-27 November 2018.

There is no change in Government’s consistent and principled position that under the Simla Agreement (1972) and as reiterated in the Lahore Declaration (1999), both India and Pakistan are committed to address all outstanding issues bilaterally. There is no scope for any third party role or mediation.

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