

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.16
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.11.2016**

SECRETARY LEVEL TALKS

16. SHRI VENKATESH BABU T.G.:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Secretary-level talks were held afresh between India and Pakistan;**
- (b) if so, the details along with the outcome thereof;**
- (c) whether any steps are being taken to resolve border and other disputes, bilateral relations between the two nations and ensure peace and tranquility along the region;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) The Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met on the sidelines of the 'Heart of Asia' Senior Officials Meeting on 26 April 2016 in New Delhi wherein, it was clearly conveyed to Pakistan that it cannot be in denial on the impact of terrorism on the bilateral relationship. Government also emphasised the need for early and visible progress on the Pathankot terrorist attack investigations, the Mumbai case trial in Pakistan and the listing of JeM leader Masood Azhar in the UN 1267 Sanctions Committee. Humanitarian issues including those pertaining to fishermen and prisoners, and people to people contacts including religious tourism were discussed. Government also pressed for consular access to Kulbhushan Jadhav, the former Naval officer abducted and presently held in Pakistan's custody.

Government remains committed to working towards a normal relationship with Pakistan by addressing all outstanding issues through peaceful bilateral means in an environment free of terror and violence. In this regard, Government of Pakistan has been conveyed on a number of occasions that it needs to honour its commitment not to allow its territory or territories under its control to be used against India, and to respect the sanctity of the International Boundary and Line of Control.
