

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.824
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2018

INDO-PAK SECRETARY LEVEL TALKS

†824. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Secretary level talks have been held in New Delhi between India and Pakistan recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the outcome of the said talks;
- (c) whether any initiative has been taken for finding cordial solutions to all the disputes between the two countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and also the outlines of the roadmap, if any, prepared between the two countries in this regard; and
- (e) the details of the various steps under consideration for improving the peaceful and bilateral relations between India and Pakistan?

ANSWER

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

- (a) No.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) to (e) India is committed to addressing all outstanding issues bilaterally and through peaceful means in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration. However, a meaningful dialogue necessarily requires an atmosphere free of terror, hostility and violence.

During the visit of the External Affairs Minister to Pakistan in December 2015, it was decided to have a meeting at the level of the Foreign Secretaries to work out modalities of the Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue. However, in wake of terrorist attack on Pathankot airbase in January 2016 and continued support to cross border terrorism and cease fire violations by Pakistan, the meeting to discuss modalities of the Dialogue has not been held so far.

The Government has consistently called upon Pakistan to abide by its commitment not to allow any territory under its control to be used against India in any manner, and to respect the sanctity of the International Boundary and Line of Control. The onus is on Pakistan to create a conducive atmosphere for a constructive and substantive Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue.
