

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3553
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.01.2019

DETERIORATING RELATIONS WITH SAARC COUNTRIES

†3553. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether our relations with SAARC countries have deteriorated to some extent;
- (b) if so, details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve relations with SAARC countries?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) No. India enjoys excellent bilateral relations, bolstered by close cultural and historic ties with SAARC countries namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Our bilateral relations with these countries have grown and expanded in recent years in line with Government's policy of 'Neighbourhood First'. The Government desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan and is committed to addressing all outstanding issues bilaterally and peacefully in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration. However, any meaningful dialogue can be held only in an atmosphere free from terror, hostility and violence. The onus is on Pakistan to create such a conducive atmosphere.
