

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3572
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.01.2019

PEACE TALKS WITH TALIBAN

3572. SHRI G. HARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has joined Moscow format which includes Taliban for peace in Afghanistan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether participation in the said Moscow format was against the earlier stand of India not to engage with the Taliban on any peace talk; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons which made to deviate from the previous stand?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (d) Russia hosted a meeting on Afghanistan on November 9, 2018 in Moscow. It was attended by a delegation of the High Peace Council of Afghanistan, and official delegations from Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and the United States.

India supports all efforts at peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan that will preserve unity and plurality, and bring security, stability and prosperity to the country. India's consistent and principled policy has been that such efforts should be Afghan-owned, Afghan-led, and Afghan-controlled and with the participation of the Government of Afghanistan.

In this context, in keeping with its consistent position, India's participation at the meeting was at non-official level.
