

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-329
ANSWERED ON-31.07.2014
Back channel between India and Pakistan

329 . Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar

- (a) whether Government is aware of news reports of the Pakistan Ambassador to Washington DC saying that a back-channel has been established between India and Pakistan to carry forward discussions aimed at resolving outstanding issues between the two countries;
- (b) if so, the special envoys nominated by the two sides; and
- (c) whether the progress made on the back-channel in the period 2004-07 would constitute the starting point of this back-channel dialogue?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 329 REGARDING “BACK-CHANNEL BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN” FOR ANSWER ON 31.07.2014

- (a) & (b) Government has seen media reports on reported remarks made by Pakistan’s Ambassador to the United States to a think-tank, including his views of back channel talks and on India’s terrorism concerns. Terrorism originating from Pakistani territory and territories under its control is India’s core concern. Government is firmly resolved to take strong action to defeat this scourge, and to ensure the safety and security of all our citizens.

In keeping with the Simla Agreement, Government endeavors to build peaceful, friendly, cooperative ties with Pakistan and to resolve all outstanding issues through a peaceful bilateral dialogue. It is common for Governments to have a variety of processes for official communication. Presently, flowing from the decision taken at the meeting between Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Pakistan on May 27 in New Delhi the Foreign Secretaries of both countries will meet in Islamabad for talks on how to take bilateral ties forward.

- (c) Does not arise.
