

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-824**  
**ANSWERED ON-03.03.2016**

Relations with Pakistan after Pathankot Air base attack

824 . Shri K.T.S. Tulsi

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the policy of Government with respect to relations with Pakistan, in the backdrop of attack on Pathankot Air base;
- (b) whether the dialogue between India and Pakistan can be uninterrupted and uninteruptible; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to boost trade between two nations or to intensify people-to-people contact?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) The Government is committed to working towards a normal relationship with Pakistan by addressing all outstanding issues through bilateral peaceful dialogue. In this context, it has been reiterated to Pakistan that it needs to fulfil its repeated assurances including at the highest level to not allow its territory or areas under its control for aiding and abetting terrorism directed against India.

Both sides agreed on 9 December 2015 to a Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue on all outstanding issues in view of the express assurance by Pakistan to take steps for expediting the Mumbai Terror Attack trial underway in Pakistan and the mutual understanding to cooperate with each other to eliminate terrorism in all its forms. After the Pathankot attack on 2-4 January 2016, it was conveyed to Pakistan at the highest level that it must take firm and immediate action against the organization and individuals in Pakistan responsible for and linked to the attack.

(c) Government encourages more interaction and exchanges between businesspersons, civil society and the common persons of the two countries. The Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue agreed between the two countries in December 2015 will also encompass economic and commercial cooperation, humanitarian issues, people-to-people exchanges and religious tourism.