

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-492
ANSWERED ON-28.04.2016

Team from Pakistan to probe Pathankot attack

492 . Shri A. K. Selvaraj

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a team from Pakistan had arrived in India last month to probe Pathankot airbase attack, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the team that arrived in India for the said probe is a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) formed for the purpose of the said investigation by the Pakistan, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The Joint Investigation Team (JIT) of Pakistan, constituted by the Government of Pakistan in connection with the Pathankot Air Base attack, visited India from 27 March to 01 April, 2016. It comprised of Muhammad Tahir Rai, Additional Inspector General of Police (Convenor of JIT); Mohammad Azim Arshad, DIG; Lt. Col. Tanvir Ahmed; Lt. Col Irfan Mirza and Inspector Shahid Tanveer. The Pakistani JIT interacted on the Pathankot case with officials of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). On 29 March, JIT was taken to the scene of crime in Pathankot and were shown locations where the terrorists infiltrated and subsequently hid, as well as where the encounter took place. The route taken by the terrorists was also shown to the JIT, which was also handed over evidence against individuals, including the members of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), who had conspired in the Pathankot attack and the handlers of terrorists who had facilitated and guided them. The JIT informed that they were collecting admissible evidence outside Pakistan under the provision of Section 188 of the CrPC of Pakistan, that will legally enable them to be used in prosecution.

The NIA briefed the JIT on its investigations in the attack. The Pakistan JIT, in turn, shared with NIA information on its own investigations thus far in Pakistan.

The interaction with JIT was held in accordance with terms of reference mutually agreed on the basis of reciprocity and followed in accordance with extant legal provisions. The case is under investigation in both countries and the Government is in touch with relevant Pakistani authorities.