

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2379 TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2014

Indo Israel working group on counter terrorism

2379. SHRI N.K. SINGH

JANARDHAN WAGHMARE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether a meeting of the Indo-Israel working group on counter terrorism was held in the recent past at New Delhi, if so, the details of the discussions held in the meeting and outcome thereof;

(b) whether Israel has offered its services to fight terrorism and if so, details thereof; and

(c) in what manner Government is going to utilise the services of the Israeli experts in countering terrorism?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) Yes. The last meeting of the India-Israel Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism was held in New Delhi on 20 February 2013. During the JWG, both sides exchanged perceptions of threat emanating from terrorism and emphasised their determination to fight the menace. They also discussed elements of regional and global terrorist threats, respective national counter terrorism strategies, state sponsored terrorism and need to strengthen bilateral and international cooperation to counter this threat.

(b) & (c) India and Israel agreed to enhance dialogue and co-operation in the area of counter terrorism and agreed to work towards finalisation of agreements on Cooperation in Homeland and Public Security Issues, Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Protection of Classified Materials and Information.