

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:19

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005

INDIA'S STAND ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION .

Bishnoi Shri Jaswant Singh;Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India accepts the need for a more active stance against nuclear proliferation;
- (b) if so, the details of the blue print prepared for the purpose;
- (c) whether discussions have been held with various countries in this regard country-wise;
- (d) if so, the reaction of these countries thereto;
- (e) whether discussions have also been held with France and Russia regarding augmenting international civilian nuclear co-operation with these countries;
- (f) if so, the details of the agreements reached in this regard;
- (g) the details of other issues which came up for discussion and the outcome thereof; and
- (h) the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) - (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement referred to in the Lok Sabha Starred Question number 19 to be answered on 23/11/05 regarding India's stand on Nuclear Proliferation.

India has an abiding interest in the goals of universal nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. India continues to believe that the best and most effective nuclear non-proliferation measure would be a credible and time-bound commitment to eliminate nuclear weapons worldwide.

2. As a responsible nuclear weapon state, India is conscious of its obligations to exercise effective control over Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) technologies and their delivery systems. India has called for a new global consensus on non-proliferation, taking into account the new challenges that have emerged in recent years including the revelation of clandestine proliferation and the possibility of linkages between terrorism and proliferation of WMD. India's security interests have been seriously undermined by the clandestine nuclear weapons programmes in its neighbourhood.

3. India has in this context, called for evolution of a framework which, on the one hand, effectively curbs and prevents proliferation and, on the other, does not unduly restrict international cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy with states such as India, who by their actions have strengthened the objective of non-proliferation. There has been recognition of India's record by the international community and it is now regarded as a partner against proliferation. The WMD (Prevention of Unlawful Activities) Act adopted in May 2005 conforms to global standards on export contracts and is indicative of India's commitment to WMD non-proliferation.

4. At the same time there is also recognition by the international community that there should be full international civilian nuclear cooperation with India given its energy needs and impeccable record on non-proliferation. Russia is already assisting us in construction of two nuclear power units of 1000 MW each in Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu. In this context, the Government is engaged in ongoing dialogue with several countries including with the US, Russia and France and they have agreed on the need to have full international civilian nuclear cooperation with India. The Government is engaged in discussions with these countries as well as others to further deepen bilateral cooperation in this sphere and to achieve the objective of full civilian nuclear cooperation.