

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3158

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2005

INDIA'S STAND ON NUCLEAR ISSUE OF IRAN

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

- (a) whether India has decided to abstain from voting regarding Iran's nuclear issue;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether U.S.A and some other countries are helping India to adopt a middle path;
- (d) if so, the reaction of Iran on India's decision;
- (e) whether there is any noticeable change in Iran's external policy towards India, specially regarding supply of oil and petroleum products; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) - (c) The IAEA Board of Governors discussed the issue of Iran's nuclear programme at its meeting on 24 November 2005. No resolution was presented to the Board and no voting took place. Government maintains that issues related to Iranian nuclear programme should be resolved in a transparent manner within the framework of the IAEA and through negotiations.

(d)- (f) Former External Affairs Minister (EAM) had met the Iranian Vice President Parviz Dawoodi on 26 October 2005 in Moscow on the sidelines of summit meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Iranian Vice President conveyed that Iran attached great importance not just to economic cooperation with India but also to the civilisational and cultural links which bind the two countries together. Former EAM reciprocated these sentiments and expressed India's satisfaction at the ongoing cooperation with Iran in the energy sector.