

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1871

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2006

ALLEGED REMARKS BY US AMBASSADOR

Ajaya Kumar Shri S.;Azmi Shri Ilyas;Sujatha Smt. C.S.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the remarks allegedly made by the US Ambassador regarding India`s vote in IAEA;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

- (a) Government has seen the remarks attributed to the US Ambassador in India concerning vote on the Iran nuclear issue at the IAEA.
- (b) on 25 January 2006 Government clarified that the position that India will take on this issue at the IAEA will be based on India`s own independent judgement. India categorically rejects any attempt to link this to the proposed Indo-US agreement on civil nuclear energy cooperation, which stands on its own merits. With regard to negotiations on the proposed India-US civilian nuclear energy cooperation agreement, India will proceed on the basis of its own national interests, as acknowledged by the US Ambassador himself.
- (c) On 26 January 2006, Foreign Secretary called in the US Ambassador to convey to him that the remarks made by him in an interview to the PTI were inappropriate and not conducive to building a strong partnership between our two independent democracies. Foreign Secretary informed the Ambassador that India`s vote on any possible resolution on the Iran nuclear issue at the IAEA would be determined by India`s own judgement of the merits of the case. Concerning the proposed India-US civil nuclear energy cooperation agreement, the Foreign Secretary reaffirmed India`s stand that both countries needed to work in the spirit of the 18 July 2005 Joint Statement and in strict conformity with the reciprocal commitments contained therein. The Ambassador expressed his sincere regrets, saying that his remarks had been taken out of context. It was not at all his intention to question India`s right to take decisions on various issues on the basis of its own national interests.