

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1902
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2006
VISIT OF US UNDER SECRETARY
Vallabhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the US Under Secretary visited India recently and held discussion on various issues;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any agreements were signed on the occasion; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Mr. Nicholas Burns visited India from 19-20 January 2006 and 23-24 February 2006 for the meeting of the India-US Working Group on civilian nuclear energy cooperation.

(b)-(d) The position with regard to discussions between India-US on civilian nuclear energy cooperation was elucidated in the Prime Minister's Suo Motu statement on this subject on February 27, 2006. Furthermore the India-US Joint statement issued following talks between Prime Minister and US President on 2 March 2006 underlines the successful completion of discussions on India's separation plan and looks forward to the full implementation of the commitments in the July 18, 2005 Joint Statement on nuclear cooperation. This historic accomplishment will permit our countries to move forward towards our common objective of full civil nuclear energy cooperation between India and the United States and between India and the international community as a whole.