

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2908
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006
INDO US TIES
Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking steps to establish better Indo-US relations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the areas identified for cooperation between the two countries?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b)-(c) The President of the United States visited India from March 1-3, 2006. His visit provided an opportunity to review the progress made in deepening India-US strategic partnership since the Joint Statement issued during Prime Minister's visit to Washington in July 2005. Discussions covered the expansion of India-US ties in the fields of agriculture, economic and trade cooperation, energy security and clean environment, strengthening innovation and the knowledge economy, issues relating to global safety and security and on expanding democratic capacities. Expanded cooperation in many of these areas will have a significant impact on India's social and economic development. Furthermore the India-US Joint Statement issued following talks between Prime Minister and US President on March 2, 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 civilian nuclear energy cooperation. This will permit our countries to move forward towards our common objective of development of stable and efficient energy markets in India with a view to ensuring adequate, affordable energy supplies and conscious of the need for sustainable development.