

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:339

ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006

NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROMOTION ACT, 2006

Chakraborty Shri Swadesh; Chandrappan Shri C.K.; Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any clause in the US and India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act, 2006 which asks the US administration to secure India's cooperation to isolate and impose sanctions against Iran for its nuclear weapons capability;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the said Act;
- (c) whether obstacles and unfavourable changes have been found/made in the original documents;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard;
- (e) the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) A Bill titled the 'United States and India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act of 2006' has been introduced in the US House of Representatives. In the section on Statement of Policy, article 3(b)(4) of this Bill states 'Secure India's full and active participation in United States efforts to dissuade, isolate, and, if necessary, sanction and contain Iran for its efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction, including a nuclear weapons capability (including the capability to enrich or process nuclear materials), and the means to deliver weapons of mass destruction'.

(b) The salient feature of the proposed Act is that it gives the US President the authority to waive the application of certain provisions of the 1954 US Atomic Energy Act that currently prohibits nuclear cooperation with India. Once enacted, this waiver authority would represent the fulfillment of US commitment to adjust its laws and policies to permit full civilian nuclear cooperation with India.

(c)-(f) The Bill contains sections that refer to issues extraneous to the 18 July 2005 Joint Statement and India's Separation Plan. It is the Government's position that the guiding principle for the resumption of civilian nuclear energy cooperation with the United States must remain the framework of the 18 July Joint Statement and India's Separation Plan. This position has been clearly communicated to the US Administration including by the Prime Minister to the US President. The language of the proposed Act is still under discussion in the US Congress and the Government would continue to engage the US Administration on this matter.