

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:134
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006
NEW TREATY ON WEAPON DEALS
Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether seven countries of the world have requested the UNO for a new treaty regarding global standards relating to weapon deals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) & (b) Yes. The representatives of Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan, Kenya and the United Kingdom jointly proposed in July 2006 a draft resolution in the context of an international treaty to regulate the trade in arms. Subsequently, a resolution titled "Towards an Arms Trade Treaty: establishing common standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms" was tabled at the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and adopted by a vote on 26 October 2006. The resolution requests the UN Secretary General to seek the views of Member States on the feasibility, scope and draft parameters for a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, and to also establish in 2008 a group of governmental experts to examine these issues.

(c) Government has always exercised the highest degree of responsibility in conventional arms transfers. India's security interests have also been affected by illicit and irresponsible transfers, especially of small arms, light weapons and explosives. Government is not, however, convinced that it is the absence of common international standards on trade in conventional arms that results in irresponsible or illicit trade. In the context of the resolution tabled at the UN, Government supports the proposal to request the Secretary General to seek views of Member States on further measures that may be necessary to establish full national control over trade in conventional arms. However, since the resolution prejudices the outcome of this consultation, Government was constrained to abstain.