

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3271
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
US DEVELOPING NEW NUKES
Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the US has been designing new generation nukes as reported in the Hindustan Times dated February 8, 2005; and
- (b) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a): Government has seen the report about US plans to develop new generation nuclear weapons. The report pertains to the Reliable Replacement Warheads Programme of the US. Dr. Samuel Bodman, the US Energy Secretary commenting on the programme has said 'It's a matter of maintaining what we have. I think some have suggested it's creating something new. It's maintaining what we have'. Earlier Stephen G. Rademaker the US Assistant Secretary of State, in a statement on February 3, 2005 said 'Consistent with our alliance commitments and defense requirements, it is our policy to continue to plan for contingencies and conceptually explore technical options that could maintain the credibility of our nuclear deterrent capability'. He added 'the fact is that the United States is not developing any new nuclear weapons, including low-yield nuclear weapons. The study of new weapons designs under funding provided by Congress in past years for advanced concepts has been entirely conceptual'.

(b) India has maintained that all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons should be eliminated globally through multilaterally negotiated, universal and non-discriminatory disarmament instruments.