

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:368
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005
VISIT OF U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

-

- (a) whether the U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, visited India recently;
- (b) if so, the details of issues discussed during the said visit;
- (c) the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the U.S. State Department has okayed several key collaborative ventures agreed upon in principle during the visit of U.S. Secretary; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) - A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 368 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.04.2005 ` VISIT OF U.S.SECRETARY OF STATE `.

(a) to (e) Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice visited New Delhi on 15-16 March 2005. She held discussions with the External Affairs Minister and called on the Prime Minister. Discussions focused on India-U.S. bilateral relations including issues such as the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership, high technology trade and strategic commerce, defence cooperation, civil aviation and expanding economic and trade links. Major regional and global issues were also discussed with the U.S. Secretary of State. The visit contributed to taking India-U.S. bilateral ties to a higher plane. Both sides reaffirmed the need to expand areas of cooperation, particularly in energy, defence and high technology sectors. Follow-up action to the discussions during the visit is under way. During the External Affairs Minister's visit to Washington D.C. on April 13-14, 2005 further progress was made on various aspects of India-U.S. relations.