

[1 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Bringing back of Koh-e-Noor

766. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the progress made so far to bring back the Koh-e-Noor diamond from U.K. to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): Government are in touch with the concerned authorities in the British Government through our High Commission in London. Government are continuing to explore ways and means for obtaining a satisfactory resolution of the matter.

Extradition of Bhopal Gas Tragedy accused

†767. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have requested the American Government for extradition of ex- Chairman of the Union Carbide Corporation in India to appear before the Indian courts in connection with Bhopal Gas Tragedy which occurred in 1984;

(b) if so, when this request was made and the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(c) what is the latest position of this case and by when he is likely to be extradited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Based on the advice given by Attorney General, the Government of India has sought the opinion of a US Attorney on the issue of the maintainability of the extradition request according to the American municipal laws.

Signing of CTBT

768. SHRIV.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any opinion to sign the CTBT;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

- (b) the names of the countries which have signed the CTBT, so far; and
(c) how many potentially nuclear-capable countries are yet to ratify the CTBT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The Government's position on the CTBT was articulated by PM on December 15, 1998 in Parliament. Government's approach on the CTBT is guided solely by India's national interest and the building of a national consensus in this regard. By observing a moratorium on explosive nuclear testing, India meets the basic obligation of the CTBT. The priority of the country's national security concerns having been addressed, the Government believes that it is also necessary to convey reassurance to the international community.

(b) and (c) A Statement listing States that have signed (and/or ratified) the CTBT is enclosed. (See below) Under Article XIV of the CTBT, 44 States that operate nuclear reactors must sign and ratify the CTBT before it can enter into force. 30 such States have ratified the Treaty; hence 14 more ratifications are required. These are also indicated in the chart.

STATEMENT

CTBT-Current Status of Signatures and Ratifications

*An asterisk indicates one of the 44 States whose ratification is required for the Treaty to enter into force (Article XIV).

Italics shows a State that has ratified the Treaty.

State	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification
1	2	3
Afghanistan		
Albania	27 September 1996	
Algeria*	15 October, 1996	
Andorra	24 September 1996	
Angola	27 September 1996	
Antigua and Barbuda	16 April 1997	
Argentina*	24 September 1996	4 December 1998
Armenia	1 October 1996	

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1	2	3
Australia*	24 September 1996	9 July 1998
Austria*	24 September 1996	13 March 1998
Azerbaijan	28 July 1997	2 February 1999
Bahamas		
Bahrain	24 September 1996	
Bangladesh*	24 October 1996	8 March 2000
Barbados		
Belarus	24 September 1996	13 September 2000
Belgium*	24 September 1996	29 June 1999
Belize		
Benin	27 September 1996	
Bhutan		
Bolivia	24 September 1996	4 October 1999
Bosnia and Herzegovina	24 September 1996	
Botswana		
Brazil*	24 September 1996	24 July 1998
Brunei Darussalam	22 January 1997	
Bulgaria*	24 September 1996	29 September 1999
Burkina Faso	27 September 1996	
Burundi	24 September 1996	
Cambodia	26 September 1996	10 November 2000
Cameroon		
Canada*	24 September 1996	18 December 1998
Cape Verde	1 October 1996	
Central African Republic		
Chad	8 October 1996	
Chile*	24 September 1996	12 July 2000
China	24 September 1996	
Colombia*	24 September 1996	
Comoros	12 December 1996	
Congo	11 February 1997	

1	2	3
Cook Islands	5 Decemebr 1997	
Costa Rica	24 September 1996	
Cote d'voire	25 September 1996	
Croatia	24 September 1996	
Cuba		
Cyprus	24 September 1996	
Czech Republic	12 November 1996	<i>11 September 1997</i>
Democratic People's Republic Of Korea*		
Democratic Republic of the Congo	4 October 1996	
Denmark	24 September 1996	<i>21 December 1998</i>
Djibouti	21 October 1996	
Dominica		
Dominican Republic	3 October 1996	
Ecuador	24 September 1996	
Egypt*	14 October 1996	
El Salvador	24 September 1996	<i>11 September 1998</i>
Equatorial Guinea	9 October 1996	
Eritrea		
Estonia	20 November 1996	<i>13 August 1999</i>
Ethiopia	25 September 1996	
Fiji	24 September 1996	<i>10 October 1996</i>
Finland*	24 September 1996	<i>15 January 1999</i>
France*	24 September 1996	<i>6 April 1998</i>
Gabon	7 October 1996	<i>20 September 2000</i>
Gambia		
Georgia	24 September 1996	
Germany*	24 September 1996	<i>20 August 1998</i>
Ghana	3 October 1996	
Greece	24 September 1996	<i>21 April 1999</i>
Grenada	10 October 1996	<i>19 August 1998</i>

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1	2	3
Guatemala	20 September 1996	
Guinea	3 October 1996	
Guinea-Bissau	11 April 1997	
Guyana	7 September 2000	
Haiti	24 September 1996	
Holy See	24 September 1996	
Honduras	25 September 1996	
Hungary*	25 September 1996	<i>13 July 1999</i>
Iceland	24 September 1996	<i>26 June 2000</i>
India*		
Indonesia*	24 September 1996	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)*	24 September 1996	
Iraq		
<i>Ireland</i>	24 September 1996	<i>15 July 1999</i>
Israel*	25 September 1996	
Italy	24 September 1996	<i>1 February 1999</i>
Jamaica	11 November 1996	
Japan*	24 September 1996	<i>8 July 1997</i>
Jordan	26 September 1996	<i>25 August 1998</i>
Kazakhstan	30 September 1996	
Kenya	14 November 1996	<i>30 September 2000</i>
Kiribati	7 September 2000	<i>7 September 2000</i>
Kuwait	24 September 1996	
Kyrgyzstan	8 October 1996	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	30 July 1997	<i>5 October 2000</i>
Latvia	24 September 1996	
Lebanon		
Lesotho	30 September 1996	<i>14 September 1999</i>
Liberia	1 October 1996	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		
Liechtenstein	27 September 1996	

1	2	3
Lithuania	7 October 1996	7 February 2000
Luxembourg	24 September 1996	26 May 1999
Madagascar	9 October 1996	
Malawi	9 October 1996	
Malaysia	23 July 1998	
Maldives	1 October 1997	7 September 2000
Mali	18 February 1997	4 August 1999
Malta	24 September 1996	
Marshall Islands	24 September 1996	
Mauritania	24 September 1996	
Mauritius		
Mexico*	24 September 1996	5 October 1999
Micronesia (Federated States of)	24 September 1996	25 July 1997
Monaco	1 October 1996	18 December 1998
Mongolia	1 October 1996	8 August 1997
Morocco	24 September 1996	17 April 2000
Mozambique	26 September 1996	
Myanmar	25 September 1996	
Namibia	24 September 1996	
Nauru	8 September 2000	
Nepal	8 October 1996	
Netherlands*	24 September 1996	23 March 1999
New Zealand	27 September 1996	19 March 1999
Nicaragua	24 September 1996	5 December 2000
Niger	3 October 1996	
Nigeria	8 September 2000	
Niue		
Norway*	24 September 1996	15 July 1999
Oman	23 September 1996	
Pakistan*		
Palau		

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1	2	3
Panama	24 September 1996	23 March 1999
Papua New Guinea	25 September 1996	
Paraguay	25 September 1996	
Peru*	25 September 1996	12 November 1997
Philippines	24 September 1996	
Poland*	24 September 1999	25 May 1999
Portugal	24 September 1996	26 June 2000
Qatar	24 September 1996	3 March 1997
Republic of Korea*	24 September 1996	24 September 1999
Republic of Moldova	24 September 1997	
Romania*	24 September 1996	5 October 1999
Russian Federation*	24 September 1996	30 June 2000
Rwanda		
Saint Kitts and Nevis		
Saint Lucia	4 October 1996	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		
Samoa	9 October 1996	
San Marino	7 October 1996	
Sao Tome and Principe	26 September 1996	
Saudi Arabia		
Senegal	26 September 1996	9 June 1999
Seychelles	24 September 1996	
Sierra Leone	8 September 2000	
Singapore	14 January 1999	
Slovakia*	30 September 1996	3 March 1998
Slovenia	24 September 1996	31 August 1999

1	2	3
Solomon Islands	3 October 1996	
Somalia		
South Africa*	24 September 1996	30 March 1999
Spain*	24 September 1996	31 July 1998
Sri Lanka	24 October 1996	
Sudan		
Suriname	14 January 1997	
Swaziland	24 September 1996	
Sweden*	24 September 1996	2 December 1998
Switzerland*	24 September 1996	1 October 1999
Syrian Arab Republic		
Tajikistan	7 October 1996	10 June 1998
Thailand	12 November 1996	
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	29 October 1998	14 March 2000
Togo	2 October 1996	
Tonga		
Trinidad and Tobago		
Tunisia	16 October 1996	
Turkey*	24 September 1996	16 February 2000
Turkmenistan	24 September 1996	20 February 1998
Tuvalu		
Uganda	7 November 1996	
Ukraine*	27 September 1996	
United Arab Emirates	25 September 1996	18 September 2000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*	24 September 1996	6 April 1998
United Republic of Tanzania		
United States of America*	24 September 1996	
Uruguay	24 September 1996	
Uzbekistan	3 October 1996	29 May 1997
Vanuatu	24 September 1996	

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1	2	3
Venezuela	3 October 1996	
Viet Nam*	24 September 1996	
Yemen	24 September 1996	
Yugoslavia		
Zambia	3 December 1996	
Zimbabwe	13 October 1999	
TOTAL NUMBER OF	Signatures: 160	Ratifications: 69
STATES: 193		(30 of required 44)
Source: CTBTO Website		

Indo-Asean-Summit

769. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to hold Indo-Asean summit in the near future;

(b) if so, the venue thereof;

(c) whether this proposal was mooted when the PM visited Indonesia and Vietnam in January, 2001;

(d) if so, what was their reaction; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to improve all round ties with the ASEAN countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This subject has been informally discussed among the ASEAN member countries. No decision has been taken yet. Any decision including the venue, would require a consensus of the ASEAN members.

(c) The proposal was discussed by PM with Vietnamese leaders is presently Chairman of ASEAN Standing Committee.

(d) Vietnam expressed its support and offered to strive for a consensus.

(e) Since December 1999, four Heads of States/Government, viz., President