

[3 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

Two rounds of official level consultations were held in September 1999 on counter-terrorism. The two sides have agreed to intensify cooperation in this area.

US Secretary of Energy, Mr. Bill Richardson, paid a visit to New Delhi on 26th October for talks on cooperation in the Energy sector.

National Security Adviser and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Shri Brajesh Mishra, visited Washington in October 1999, which was followed by the visit of Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, Ms. Susan Esserman, to India in November 1999, for talks on WTO issues, in the context of the forthcoming Ministerial level meeting in Seattle, USA.

Assistance to Pakistan for missile development programme

329.SHRI SITARAM KESARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the assistance being extended by some countries to Pakistan for development of their missile programme;

(b) if so, which are the countries giving help to Pakistan in the matter; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) the Government is aware of the acquisition of missiles and related technology by Pakistan, including from China and the Democratic People Republic of Korea (DPRK).

(c) The Government has made it clear, including to China and DPRK, that continuing supply of sophisticated missiles and related technology to Pakistan poses a threat to India's security and is not conducive to maintenance of peace and stability in the region. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

Effectiveness of Extradition Treaty between India and U.A.E.

330.SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Extradition Treaty between India and U.A.E. was an executive act;

(b) whether it would be effective in respect to citizens right without any legislation under Article 253 of our Constitution; and

(c) if so, the details thereof/

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. An Extradition Treaty with the United Arab Emirates was signed by the Government of India on 25 October, 1999. The Treaty will come into force after exchange of instruments of ratification with the U.A.E.

Parliament has already adopted enabling Legislation i.e. the Extradition Act of 1962 (Number 34 of 1962), which received the assent of the President on 15 September 1962. The Treaty would, therefore, not require enactment of separate implementing legislation or any amendment to the Extradition Act of 1962. In order to give effect to the provisions of the Treaty in India, after exchange of instruments of ratification with the U.A.E., the Treaty will be notified under Section 3(1) of the Extradition Act 1962 through a Gazette Notification by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Talks with the United States on Afghanistan and cross border terrorism

331. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the US had official level talks on September 2, 1999, at Washington on Afghanistan and cross border terrorism perpetrated by Afghan Taliban;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir. The official level consultations between India and the US were held in Washington on September 2-3, 1999 on Afghanistan and cross-border terrorism.

(b) These consultations resulted in a better understanding and appreciation of each other's concerns and perceptions on the evolving situation in Afghanistan and the problem of terrorism and their impact on India.

(c) Mr. Michael Sheehan, Chief Coordinator on Counter-terrorism in the US State Department visited India on September 17-18, 1999 and bilateral interaction is continuing. The two Governments have agreed to intensify cooperation in combating terrorism.

Pakistan's strategy in response to India's draft nuclear doctrine

332. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan, in response to India's draft nuclear doctrine, spelt out a 10-Point "Strategic Restraint Regime" in September this year, which amongst others included an India-Pak nuclear test ban treaty;