

[22 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Indo-Russian strategic cooperation to combat international terrorism

2922. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether senior officials of the National Security Council of India and Russia are holding consultations to expand strategies cooperation in combating international terrorism, drug trafficking and illegal arms trade, etc.;

(b) if so, whether a high-level delegation from India visited Moscow and had discussions with Russian Government on this issue;

(c) if so, whether any final agreement in this regard was arrived; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In line with the Protocol on Cooperation between the National Security Council of India and the Security Council of the Russian Federation, both sides agreed to establish Joint Coordination Groups. The first meetings of the Joint Coordination Groups on International Terrorism and International and Regional Security were held in Moscow from February 19 — 21, 2001.

(c) and (d) During the meetings, issues relating to the challenges faced by both India and the Russian Federation from International Terrorism and drugs trafficking were discussed. Discussions on Regional and International Security issues were also held. As a part of their continuing cooperation, both sides agreed that the next meetings of the Joint Coordination Groups would take place in New Delhi in the near future.