

(b) the steps that are being taken to strengthen and improve our relations with Iran?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) The UN Security Council has passed UNSC Resolution 1929 on the Iran nuclear issue. Certain unilateral sanctions have also been imposed by US and other Western countries on Iran in the same context. India's consistent position has been that Iran has a right to develop peaceful use of nuclear energy while fulfilling all its obligations and commitments. The Iran nuclear issue should be resolved through peaceful diplomacy, and the framework of the IAEA provides the best forum to address technical aspects of the issue.

(b) There have been regular high-level exchanges between India and Iran including consultations at Ministerial level to discuss bilateral relations and issues of regional and global importance. Meetings of the Joint Commission and Joint Working Groups and exchange of delegations have been held to promote economic and commercial cooperation, cultural and educational ties and address consular matters. The interactions of academic and research institutions as also of chambers of commerce and industry and commercial entities have been facilitated. These include the organization of bilateral seminars, meetings and exchange of visits and promotional events.

#### **Removal of ISRO and DRDO from entities list**

3231. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked US Government to remove vital defence research organizations, ISRO and DRDO from the entities list;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the US Government had put many Indian institutions in black-list; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) Yes, some Indian entities are included in the US Entity List. The Government has taken up with the US Government the issue of removal of Indian entities from the US Entity List, as the continuance of these entities on the List does not reflect the significant progress made in relations, and the strategic partnership established, between India and the United States in recent years.

#### **Visit of Sri Lankan President**

3232. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sri Lankan President, during his recent visit to India exchanged views on host of geo-strategic issues besides trade and culture;

(b) whether in addition, they agreed to promote dialogue on security and defence issues of relevance to bilateral relationship and enhance high level military exchanges and training of