

**Visit of U.S. Secretary of State to India**

3758. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

SHRI RAVULACHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: SHRI AMAR

SINGH SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the U.S. Secretary of State visited India, recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the issues figured in the talks held with her and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether any agreements were signed during the visit;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, agreement-wise;
- (e) whether the matter relating to the stoppage of supply of F-16 Fighter aircraft to Pakistan was also taken up;
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (g) whether she has given any categorical assurance of U.S. support for UN Security Council seat to India; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor and U.S. stand on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice visited New Delhi on 15-16 March, 2005.

(b) She held discussions with the External Affairs Minister and called on the Prime Minister. Discussions focused on India-US. 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-US. bilateral ties to a higher plane. Both sides reaffirmed the need to expand areas of cooperation, particularly in energy, defence and high technology sectors.

(c) and (d) No agreements were signed during the visit.

(e) and (f) In regard to U.S.'s decision of supply of F-16 aircrafts to Pakistan, we have reiterated that it would impact on the positive public

[28 April, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

sentiment and goodwill for the US in India and also have repercussions on the ongoing India-Pakistan dialogue. The US Administration's response has been that it values its relationship with India and is committed to taking it forward. As far as India-Pakistan relations were concerned, while the US has an arms supply relationship with Pakistan, it was supportive of the India-Pakistan dialogue

(g) and (h) Secretary of State has recognised the need to accommodate major rising powers like India in international institutions. The two sides have subsequently agreed to discuss the various issues related to UN reform and engage closely. In that context, Special Advisory to Dr. Rice on UN reforms is likely to visit India. These are positive developments and we are hopeful of developing better understanding between our two countries on this issue.

**Prime Minister's Mauritius visit**

3759. SHRI LALIT SURI:

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister visited Mauritius recently; .

(b) if so, the bilateral and multilateral issues figured in his talks with Mauritius leaders and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any agreements were signed during the visit;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof and the benefits to be accrued to India as a result thereof, agreement wise; and

(e) in what manner the implementation thereof would be watched and ensured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJEET SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Honourable Prime Minister visited Mauritius from 30 March to 2 April 2005.

(b) A broad range of issues of mutual interest were discussed during this visit. India has extremely close relations with Mauritius and a number of proposals for boosting cooperation between the two countries in the fields of commerce, economy, defence, small scale industries, oil were discussed. It is envisaged that as a result of this visit Indo-Mauritian ties will be further strengthened and consolidated.