

**Second phase of strategic partnership with USA**

1485. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

DR. AKHLESH DAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after a successful completion of first phase, U.S. Under Secretary for Commerce visited India to discuss for second phase of next steps in strategic partnership (NSSP) initiative;

(b) if so, the details of the steps to be taken in this phase of the strategic partnership discussed with him and the outcome thereof; and the progress so far made under the first phase of the strategy;

(c) whether both Prime Minister of India and U.S. President had agreed to launch second phase of NSSP by mid-October, 2004;

(d) if so, to what extent both phases of agreement reached between two leaders have been fully implemented; and

(e) to what extent it would be beneficial to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) U.S. Under Secretary for Commerce, Kenneth I. Juster visited India in October 2004 to review the progress in Indo-U. S. High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG) and to participate in the NASSCOM organized India-U.S. Information Security Summit-2004.

(b) to (d) Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) seeks to enhance cooperation in civilian space; civilian nuclear energy, 'dual use' items and missile defence areas and is designed to progress through a series of reciprocal steps that build on each other. This has included implementation of measures to address export control concerns. These efforts have enabled the US to make modifications to export licensing policies that will foster cooperation in commercial space programs and permit certain exports to power plants at safeguarded nuclear facilities. ISRO Headquarters has been removed from the U.S. Department of Commerce Entity List. The completion of Phase one of NSSP was announced in a Joint Statement on 17 September, 2004 during Foreign Secretary's visit to U.S. prior to Prime Minister's meeting with President Bush on 21 September, 2004. Since

then two meetings—one in New Delhi on October 21 and the other in Washington on November 18 of the Implementation Group of NSSP have taken place to explore ways to move further in the next phase.

(e) NSSP provides a unique platform for the two sides to work together constructively to improve confidence and relations between the two countries. It would be beneficial in enhancing high technology transfer and strategic trade between the two countries.

### **Indo-Pak Prime Ministers' Meeting**

**1486. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:**

**SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent meeting of Indian Prime Minister and Pakistan Prime Minister at Delhi, all outstanding issues including cross-border terrorism was discussed;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Pakistan Prime Minister on increasing terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir by the Pakistan-trained militants; and

(c) whether during the visit, there had been any impact of absurd statements made by President of Pakistan day to day?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED):** (a) to (c) Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Shaukat Aziz, on November 24, 2004, during the latter's visit to India in his capacity as the Chairperson of SAARC. Although SAARC was the reason for the visit, there was also an exchange of views on bilateral issues. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, *inter alia*, underlined the importance of the fulfillment in letter and spirit of the January 6, 2004 commitment of President Musharraf not to permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. Both sides positively assessed the developments in bilateral relations and reiterated their commitment to take forward the ongoing process of confidence building, dialogue and cooperation.