

Visit of Japanese Foreign Minister

1804. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what advancement has been made towards establishment of relationship for strategic cooperation with Japan during the recent visit of Japanese Foreign Minister during the first week of January 2006; and

(b) whether proposal for disarmament/non-proliferation were discussed during the visit, if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) During the visit of the Foreign Minister of Japan Mr. Taro Aso to India from January 3-4, 2006, India and Japan agreed to conduct Foreign Minister-level talks with a strategic perspective and utilise the existing Foreign Office Consultations at Secretary/Deputy Minister-level to prepare for the Foreign Minister-level dialogue.

(b) Yes. The two sides agreed to launch an annual dialogue on disarmament and non-proliferation.

Declaration of Civilian Nuclear Power

1805. SHRI VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to sign declaration for civilian nuclear power with other development countries;

(b) if so, the steps taken for the same and the countries approached/ discussed for the above purpose;

(c) if so, the details of terms and conditions under discussion/ finalised with the above countries;

(d) if so, whether the above agreements/terms and conditions suggest the separation of various nuclear energy utility services; and 1

(e) if so, the details including the countries/country that suggested above conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (e) Government has placed considerable importance on nuclear energy in its energy mix, as it provides

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a cheap and clean source of energy. In this context, the Government is engaged in a dialogue with a broad range of countries including with the US, Russia and France and they have agreed on the need to have full international civilian nuclear cooperation with India. India and France signed a Declaration on the Development of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes during the recent visit of President Jacques Chirac on February 20, 2006 which underlines the need to develop international cooperation in promoting the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The Joint Statement issued on July 18, 2005 during the visit of Prime Minister to the US, stated *inter-alia* that the US will work to achieve full civil nuclear energy cooperation with India. During the visit of President Bush to India on 2 March 2006 the two sides welcomed the successful completion of discussions on India's separation plan for civil and military nuclear facilities and noted that this historic accomplishment will permit India and US to move forward towards common objective of full civil nuclear energy cooperation between India and the US and between India and the international community as a whole. During the visit of Prime Minister to Russian Federation in December 2005 both sides agreed to actively explore opportunities to further expand cooperation in the sphere of peaceful uses of atomic energy. These discussions are ongoing.

Talks on Nuclear Agreement with USA

t1806. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Secretary level talks were held between India and America on the issue of implementation of the Nuclear Cooperation Agreement;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether nuclear issue of Iran was also discussed in the above meeting;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any road map has been prepared with respect to implementation of the Nuclear Cooperation Agreement; and
- (f) if so, details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.