

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Shri P.K. Banerjee, Manager of the Indian Football Team which won the SAFF Trophy in Karachi, was stopped at Karachi Airport from leaving on 18th December, 2005. It seems that he had been issued a Police Reporting Visa by Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi and this requirement had not been complied with by Shri Banerjee in Karachi. Shri Banerjee was allowed by Pakistani authorities to leave subsequently on 19th December, 2005.

(c) The matter was brought to the attention of the High Commission of India, Islamabad on 19th December, 2005. This was taken up with Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which promised to look into the matter.

Trade and business with Pakistan

1802. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in one of the recent press meetings President of Pakistan has said that Pakistan would not consider to increase the trade and business with India;

(b) If so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether such statement by Pakistan President would adversely affect the peace process which is being accelerated by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, According to President Musharraf's official website, on 27 January, 2006, at a Press Conference at the World Economic Forum at Davos, on trade and economic ties with India, he said, "I do understand that economic benefits of inter relationship between India and Pakistan are tremendous with no doubt in my mind that there is tremendous gain on both sides if we were to interact but at the same time, you must understand that there has been wars between our countries... So unless you resolve or remove the irritants solve disputes it will keep festering and we don't know what the attitude of the future leaders will be. So permanent peace will never come and whatever economy or economic relationship you are talking may get hindered again in the future with changed environment..."

(b) and (c) Government believe that India and Pakistan should promote bilateral trade and economic relations for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the two countries. India is also committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan bilaterally and peacefully. Government intends to continue with the present process of confidence building, cooperation and dialogue in an atmosphere free from terror and violence.

Implementation of Indo-US deal

1803. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Foreign Secretary during his visit to Washington in December last discussed the strategy for implementation of Indo-US nuclear deal of July 18, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the strategy chalked out for separation of civilian and military nuclear sites; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Foreign Secretary visited Washington 21-22 December for the meeting of the Working Group on civilian nuclear energy and held discussion with US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Mr. Nicholas Burns, on the implementation of India-US understanding on civilian nuclear energy cooperation of July 18, 2005.

(c) The position with regard to discussions between India-US on civilian nuclear energy cooperation was elucidated in the Prime Minister's *Suo Motu* statement on this subject on February 27, 2006. Furthermore, the India-US Joint Statement issued following talks between Prime Minister and US President on 2 March, 2006 underlines the successful completion of discussions on India's separation plan and looks forward to the full implementation of the commitments in the July 18, 2005 Joint Statement on nuclear cooperation. This historic accomplishment will permit our countries to move forward towards our common objective of full civil nuclear energy cooperation between India and the United States and between India and the international community as a whole.