## Impact of relations with Iran

\*308. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Obama Administration is threatening to impose sanctions on India over its continued economic ties with Iran;

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- (b) if so, the reaction of Government on such threats posed by Obama Administration;
- (c) whether Government has taken up the matter with the U.S. officials to defuse any tension; and
  - (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) The United States has not threatened to impose sanctions on India for its economic relations with Iran. However, as part of its sanctions regime related to Iran, the United States has recently enacted a law, which, *inter alia*, has provisions for imposition of sanctions on individual foreign entities like foreign financial institutions that engage in a significant financial transaction with Iranian Central Bank or a designated financial institution in Iran for petroleum related trade after 28 June 2012. The institution could be exempted from sanctions if the U.S. makes the determination that the country with primary jurisdiction over that foreign financial institution has significantly reduced its volume of crude oil purchases from Iran.

The Government of India implements its obligations under the UN Security Council Resolutions on Iran. We continue to maintain that we are bound by UN sanctions and unilateral sanctions imposed by countries or group of countries should not impact legitimate trade relations with Iran. India's crude imports from Iran are guided by its energy security and take into account its oil requirements, multilateral sanctions, conditions in financial and energy markets, and security and stability in different oil-producing regions of the world.

India and the United States have regular dialogue on bilateral cooperation and all global and regional issues of mutual interest. In these meetings, the two sides have had candid and constructive discussions on issues related to Iran and broader West Asia region. India and the United States remain committed to strengthening their strategic partnership.

## **Corrupt practices by Private Contractors**

\*309. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a report prepared by the World Bank's Institutional Integrity Unit alleging fraudulent and corrupt practices by private Indian contractors working on national highways projects funded by it;
  - (b) if so, the details thereof;
  - (c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the allegations; and
  - (d) if so, the details thereof and action taken, if any?