

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 7 th December, 2005/16 Agrahayana, 1927 (Saka)

The House met at Eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: सर, एकदम शांति है। ...**(व्यवधान)** ... मैं सोच रहा हूँ, कितनी शांति है आज? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: यह क्वेश्चन शांति का है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... क्वेश्चन नंबर 201।

श्री वी० नारायणसामी: अहलुवालिया जी। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया: सर, ये जितनी बार अहलुवालिया का नाम लेते हैं, उतनी बार राम का नाम लें, तो इन्हें मोक्ष मिल जाएगा।

प्रो० राम देव भंडारी: आजकल उमा भारती का नाम ज्यादा चल रहा है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

*201. [The Questioner (SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR) was absent from answer *vide* page 40]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 202. Shri A. Vijayaraghavan.

Defence framework agreement with various countries

*202. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many attempts to have defence framework agreements with various countries for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the military ties, defence framework agreement, joint exercises, training programmes formulated with other countries for the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and country-wise; and

(c) whether the above military ties are in accordance with the independent foreign policy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Agreements in the field of defence cooperation with various countries are entered into from time to time depending upon the level of bilateral relations with the country involved. In the last three years, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Agreement on Defence Cooperation have been entered into by India with Italy, Poland, Armenia, United Arab Emirates, Seychelles, Tanzania, Singapore, Czech Republic, Hungary, Brazil and Uzbekistan. However, with a large number of countries, including Russia, France and U.K., India has defence co-operation arrangements arising out of agreements reached earlier.

A statement showing the number of exercises conducted by our Armed Forces with foreign countries during the same period is annexed at Statement-I (*See Below*)

Training of Armed Forces personnel of foreign countries in Indian defence training institutions and establishments is being undertaken to enhance defence cooperation with the countries concerned either under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation/Special Aid Programme of Ministry of External Affairs or on self-financing basis. Personnel from our Armed Forces also participate in various courses/training programmes offered by some foreign countries.

Defence cooperation with any foreign country is formulated in conjunction with India's stated foreign and defence policy goals.

Statement-I

Exercises conducted by the Indian Armed Forces with foreign countries during 2003, 2004 and 2005

Year	Country	No. of exercises		
		Army	Navy	Air Force
1	2	3	4	5
2003	Indonesia	-	1	-
	Singapore		1	
	Oman		1	

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1	2	3	4	5
2004	Russia	-	1	-
	USA	3	2	-
	France	-	1	1
	China	-	1	-
	Tajikistan	1	-	-
	Singapore	-	1	1
	Indonesia	-	1	-
	UK	-	1	-
	France	-	1	-
	USA	3	1	2
2005	Mongolia	1	-	-
	Seychelles	1	-	-
	South Africa	-	-	1
	USA	4	2	1
	Singapore	1		-
	Oman	-		-
	France	-		1
	Indonesia	-		-
	Thailand	-		-
	Sri Lanka	-		-
	Russia	1		-
	UK	1	-	-
	Mongolia	1	-	-
	China	-	1	-

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHVAN: Sir from the answer it is seen that nearly, 7 defence joint exercises have been undertaken between the United States of America and India, and a deep concern was expressed about these agreements which we have signed with the United States of America. Naturally, it is an extension of the existing agreements with all other nations. Normally, these kinds of agreements would be related to equipments only. This time, it is an extension of military to military relationships. So, naturally,

there are so many doubts in the minds of the people whether it is a change from the independent foreign policy, which has been mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme, and naturally, it has its impact. It was reported that there would be an expanded collaboration with regard to missile defence. I would like to know from the Government whether there would be an expanded collaboration relating to missile defence, and if so, what would be the conditions in this regard between the Government of U.S.A. and the Government of India.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the question of missile defence extension is concerned, it is, perhaps, outside the purview of this question. Even within the framework arrangements which have been made, there was an exhaustive discussion on the floor of this House, after the framework arrangement was made with the U.S.A. in last June, and I had explained at that time that in the whole arrangement, there is no obligation, no commitment. It is just providing an arrangement in which if both the countries desire, they can have something. But nothing has been specifically mentioned. Even the meaning of the word 'framework'—I have out in the dictionary—is not an agreement. It is an essential supporting or underlying structure. Agreement is something, different. That is the plain dictionary meaning of the word 'framework'. So, there is no question of having any defence missile arrangements with the U.S.A. so far as the framework is concerned.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHVAN: Sir, my second supplementary is this. With regard to the joint military exercises which have been started recently, there was a big mass protest in and around Kolkata and other districts of West Bengal. So, naturally, with regard to training and exercise, even though it is generally mentioned as defence training and joint exercises it has other ramifications. It is not an omnibus term. It may conceal something. There are so many other things, wide range of collaborations, 2nd possibility of military closeness is also there. So, naturally because of these kinds of exercises there would be an possibility of penetration into our intelligence system, and of course, with these exercises with the U.S. aircrafts etc., now, there is a plan by the Pentagon to use our ground support for the U.S. aeroplanes and war planes. Sir, naturally, the country has a concern. What are the safeguards taken by the Government to avert such a situation?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, perhaps, the hon. Member is under the impression that this type of military cooperation is some sort of a

military pact to support each other on military action, but it is not like that. When we enter into joint exercises...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, why I am saying that is ...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI CHAIRMAN: Let him complete. ...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Please let me complete. Otherwise, you can put questions; I have no problem.

श्री सभापति: नहीं , नहीं आप अपनी बात पूरी करिए (व्यवधान)... बोलिए (व्यवधान)...
Let him complete.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Therefore, this is not so. And what is not so, if the hon. Member wants to say 'it may happen', I cannot answer any hypothetical question. So far as the joint exercise which took place in Kalaikunda is concerned, that is also not for the first time. Earlier, it was in Gwalior. And the Annexure in which I have given the figures— and the total figures are also available with me— shows that in the last three years— I am not talking of before 2003, but of 2003, 2004 and 2005— we had total exercises: Army -16, Navy - 22, Air Force - 6, and with a large number of countries including China, Russia, France, U.K., and most of the developing countries starting from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, including Senegal. Therefore, just to expand the idea that we have entered into some sort of pre-cold war military pact through this instrumentality is not correct.

श्री सभापति: ठीक है।

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, actually, the question talks about attempts to have Defence framework Agreements. Now, we are caught in a bit of semantics here because it talks of framework as well as of agreement. I do not know whether the hon. The Raksha Mantri had seen the dictionary when is a framework agreement in the U.S., but, now, he tells us what is a framework agreement or a framework; what is it called, it is called a new framework for the U.S.-India Defence Relationship is not an agreement; it is only 'an expression of intent'. I will go by his dictionary meaning until I see another dictionary myself. But, sir, I am referring to the reply to a question, which the Defence Minister had given on the U.S.-India Defence Relationship on the 27th of the July in this House. It is Q. No. 262. And it says that "the framework seeks to *inter alia* enhance the capabilities of Indian Armed Forces to deal with terrorism, disasters and the spread of weapons of mass destruction". Now, with reference to this, I would like to know from the hon. the Raksha Mantri (a) whether, after the experience of

Katrina, there is anything that the Indian Armed Forces have to learn from the U.S. Armed Forces as far as disaster management is concerned; and (b) as far as the spread of weapons of mass destruction is concerned, whether it, in any way, ties us to the U.S.-Led Proliferation Security Initiative, the PSI. Thank you. v

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, my answer to second part of the hon. Member's question is 'no'. So far as the reply to first part is concerned, Sir, the process of learning is endless. Before tsunami, to be very frank, our Coast Guard or Navy or Armed Forces or Air Forces did not have the type of experiences which they gathered during tsunami. Similarly, in Katrina, we have learnt something; some experiences we have gathered. Later, in Hurricane also, we have gathered some experiences. Therefore, it would be difficult to say that we have learnt everything; whatever is to be learnt, as and when the situation unfolds, and depending upon the gravity and the magnitude of the situation, the process of learning is there.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: What about PSI, Proliferation Security Interest?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I told you, 'No'.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, will the hon. Defence Minister inform the House about the status of Indo-Sri Lankan Defence Agreement. Prior to the signing of the Agreement, was the Indian Army providing training facilities, on an informal basis, to the Sri Lankan Army? I also read reports that top Indian Army officials visited the Tamil areas of Sri Lanka last week. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what was the purpose of this mission.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the cooperation with Sri Lanka is concerned, I hope the hon. Members are aware that Sri Lanka is one of the countries which has the largest number of officers in our different defence institutions from the very beginning. It has not begun today; and it is one of the countries which utilises the ITEC facilities which have been extended to them from 1956 onwards. Therefore, the presence of the Sri Lankan trainees in our different defence institutions is there. A large number of them are present and even today, right now, Larger any individual country can send the number of officers for being trained in the defence institutions

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in India. So far as the visit, of Indian Army officers to Tamil areas is concerned, the answer is, 'No'.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, in Goa, there is a Naval base where training is given to the pilots. Recently, on Monday, a young pilot belonging to Punjab died because of an air crash. I would, like to know from the hon. Minister whether this training, which is given in a Naval base in Goa, is under any international agreement or not. Even otherwise, what steps does the Government propose to take to void such catastrophic incidents?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, this has nothing to do with this question on the agreements. But it is unfortunate that a young pilot lost his life while he was flying, I think, a sea carrier aircraft. As per the normal rule, a Court of Inquiry has been set up when the Court of Inquiry report will be available, it will be known to us what was the reason for the accident. This is our own training institution and we have established it and not under any international agreement.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, the hon. Defence Minister in his answer to the question has said that this Framework Agreement on Indo-US defence relations is not binding on either country. It may not be binding. But the issue is, having signed this Framework Agreement, that the Government of India is setting forth a direction for the policy towards the US in defence relations. My question is concerning that direction in a clause which relates to collaboration in multinational operations where there is no mention at all of the United Nations auspices for such multinational operations. So, my question is: (a) By signing and introducing such a clause, has India not accepted the US concept of multinational operations in Third World countries without the UN mandate? (b) Will the hon. Defence Minister kindly explain to the House what are these multinational operations outside the purview of the UN, in which Indian can participate with the United States?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, this issue was also debated in detail on the floor of this House. So far as multinational operations in which we can participate outside the purview of the UN are concerned, I mentioned this then, and I am repeating it now, it is only in disaster management and nothing beyond that. Otherwise, if we are to engage our troops, as, sometimes, we do for peace keeping, it is always under the purview of the

UN, and not outside the purview of the UN. Secondly, it is for each country to decide in which area they will participate and in which area they will not participate. So far as the improvement of defence relations with the USA is concerned, there is no doubt that the direction is to improve the relations—we want to extend our defence cooperation—not only with the USA but with host of other countries all over the world including China, Russia, France, the UK and the USA.

"राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना" के तहत जैव-डीजल का उत्पादन

†*203. श्री रविशंकर प्रसादः#

श्री राम जेटमलानी:

क्या ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार से जैव-डीजल के उत्पादन को "राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना" के अधीन लाने का आग्रह किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने उपरोक्त मामले पर विचार करके जैव-डीजल के उत्पादन को "राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना" के अधीन शामिल करने का निर्णय कर लिया है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री (श्री रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह) : (क) से (घ) एक विवरण सदन के पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

राज्य सभा में 7.12.2005 को उत्तर दिए जाने के लिए नियत तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या

(क) से (घ) भारत सरकार ने 7.9.2005 को राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी अधिनियम, 2005 को अधिसूचित किया है। राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी अधिनियम के अंतर्गत ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजनाएं राज्य सरकारों द्वारा तैयार की जानी है। राज्य सरकारों को राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी अधिनियम के अंतर्गत ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना तैयार करने के अनुदेश दिए गए हैं।

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

#सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद द्वारा पूछा गया।