

- (c) the other countries that are also opposing India's joining NSG; and
- (d) the steps India is taking to counter the moves to block India's entry into NSG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is subject to a decision by the NSG members. NSG deliberations are confidential and its decisions are taken by consensus. NSG decisions are subject to the policies of its Member States and may include factors not under the control of Government of India. Government remains in touch with Turkey and with other NSG members on this issue.

Discussion and pact with Russia

1893. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of discussion and pact made in different sectors during the recent visit of Russian President;
- (b) whether Government has raised the issue of heavy tax on Oil exploration by the Russian Government; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of the counterpart thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir V. Putin visited New Delhi for the 13th India-Russia Annual Summit (Dec. 24, 2012). During the visit, he held wide ranging discussions with the Indian side led by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. During the meetings, the two leaders undertook an extensive review of the various areas of bilateral cooperation, especially in energy, defence, space, trade and investment, science and technology, education, culture and tourism. There was also an exchange of views on international issues such as the Syrian situation and Afghanistan.

On defence cooperation, the two leaders expressed satisfaction that the various joint design, development and production projects were progressing well. .

Regarding energy cooperation, it was conveyed to the Russian side, India's interest in deepening cooperation through further mutual investments and joint projects.

The two leaders welcomed the operationalization of the India-Russia Joint Science and Technology Centres in India and Russia, which can assist the development and commercialization of promising technologies, including in nano-technology, bio-medicine and super-computing.

As regards economic cooperation, it was acknowledged that the bilateral trade had grown in 2012; however, there is still untapped potential in areas such as pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, mining, steel, information technology, civil aviation, telecommunications, infrastructure, food processing, innovation and services, which both sides need to exploit.

In addition, at the Summit, a Joint Statement titled "Partnership for mutual benefit and a better world" was adopted by both sides. Ten documents were also signed during the visit, including an MoU on Science Technology and Innovation; an MoU to promote direct investments; contracts for delivery of 71 Mi-17V-5 helicopters and 42 technological kits for SU-30MKI aircraft licensed production ; an MoU between BSNL/MTNL and NIS, GLONASS for conducting a pilot project; as well as a few private sector contracts.

(b) and (c) Yes. The Government has raised the issue with the Russian leadership at various bilateral fora and high-level meetings. The Russian side is aware of India's concerns and these are subject of ongoing discussions.

ASEAN Summit in Delhi

1894. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recently held Association of South East Asian (ASEAN) meeting in New Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that the problems created by China were also discussed; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit under the theme '*ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace and Shared Prosperity*' was held in New Delhi on December 20- 21, 2012 to commemorate 20 years of dialogue relations and