

to the present allocation of work, Additional Secretary (Human Resources) was also appointed as Foreign Service Inspector. Additional Secretary (Coordinator for Counter Terrorism) was redesignated as Additional Secretary (International Security). The post of Additional Secretary (International Organisations) existed even earlier.

(b) As part of the reorganization of the work distribution in the Ministry, a new Divisions called 'Eurasia' was also created.

(c) The Eurasia Division mainly comprises of Central Asian countries and Russia. At present, the Eurasia Division consists of the following countries:

(i) Azerbaijan (ii) Armenia (iii) Belarus (iv) Georgia (v) Kazakhstan (vi) Kyrgyzstan (vii) Russian Federation (viii) Tajikistan (ix) Turkmenistan (x) Ukraine and (xi) Uzbekistan.

Talk on Proliferation between India and US

422. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether next round of talk on proliferation between India and US has started in the month of April, 2004;

(b) whether US Secretary during his visit had invited India to join PSI which has currently 14 members;

(c) whether all the doubts of the Indian side in this regard have been cleared by US; and

(d) if so, to what extent both countries have agreed to have proliferation talk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) Officials from India and the United States have held discussions on diverse issues on the non-proliferation agenda. The last round of these discussions was held in Washington on 31 March 2004. Discussions have been held with the US side on the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), including during the visit of US Secretary of State Colin Powell to New Delhi from 16-18 March 2004. In these discussions, Government has been guided by considerations related to legitimacy of actions under the Proliferation Security Initiative and their grounding in international law.