

(c) Government has engaged with NSG members on the basis of its record on non-proliferation and disarmament, its commitment to follow the guidelines of the NSG, its ability to supply the items controlled by the NSG and its enforcement of a strict law-based export control system. It has highlighted India's fulfillment of all the criteria that were taken on record at the time of the September 2008 NSG decision on India. Government has underlined that India's participation in the NSG is in the larger global interest and would advance non-proliferation, energy security and facilitate combat against climate change.

Indo-US joint declaration

414. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a joint declaration was issued by India and USA titled "The United States and India: Enduring Global partners in the 21st Century" during Prime Minister's recent visit to USA;

(b) if so, the salient features of the declaration;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said declaration implies a right-wing shift in India's foreign policy undermining its long standing position of independence from any military alliance; and

(d) if so, the details and the reasons for opting a shift in our foreign policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) Prime Minister visited the United States from 6-8 June 2016 at the invitation of the US President Barack Obama. There were significant and concrete outcomes from the visit in key areas of cooperation such as civil nuclear; clean energy; defence and security; economy and people-to-people ties which have been reflected in the Joint Statement titled "The United States and India: Enduring Global Partners in the 21st Century", issued during the visit.

(c) and (d) There is no change in India's long-standing policy of not joining any military alliance. The Joint Statement issued during the visit of Prime Minister to the United States is also based on this fundamental tenet of our foreign policy.

Chinese opposition to India's efforts for NSG

†415. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China openly opposed India's efforts for Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) membership as a result of which India could not become NSG member;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, whether India is reconsidering its foreign policy with regard to China; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for India not becoming a member of NSG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) India is at present not a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and, therefore, not privy to the Group's internal discussions. However, we have taken note of recent media reports, including interviews quoting Chinese Government officials, that India's NSG membership can only be considered after procedural issues concerning the membership of non-NPT countries are resolved.

(b) India continues to engage with China on all issues of mutual interest.

(c) It is understood that the discussion on India's membership will be taken forward in the NSG.

Indians in jails of Pakistan

416. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Indians are lodged in Pakistan jails, till 1st March, 2016, and since how long, with details; and

(b) how many of them have been languishing in jails for petty crimes like crossing the border etc., and efforts made by Government to seek their release from jails and bringing back to India, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) As per the list exchanged between the Governments of India and Pakistan on 1st July 2016, there are in total 518 prisoners (463 fishermen and 55 civil prisoners) who are Indian or believed-to-be Indian in Pakistani jails.

The time since when they have been imprisoned has been tabulated below:

Prisoners who are Indian or believed-to-be Indians	Fishermen	Civil Prisoners	Total
1	2	3	4
Less than 5 years	463 (all fishermen are in Pakistani jails since less than 1 year)	25	488
More than 5 years but less than 10 years	0	18	18