

(b) whether any other officials have been arrested from Border Security Force, Police etc. during the last two years and if so, the details thereof and the status of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Mr. Nishant Agarwal, Senior System Engineer posted at BrahMos Aerospace, Nagpur Unit was interrogated and detained by Indian Authorities on the suspicion of possible leakage of official information. The matter is being investigated by the authorised Indian agencies.

Indo US 2 + 2 dialogue

1923. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the agreements, MoU's signed by the Government in the recently held 2+2 dialogue, if any, mention the details;

(b) what are India's obligation and commitment to US in this dialogue, mention the details thereof;

(c) whether India have any obligation or understanding agreed to US that India gradually be a part of the ongoing sanction on Iran by US; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) The following Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) were signed with the United States in the recently held 2 + 2 Dialogue:

(i) Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA);
and

(ii) Memorandum of Intent between the U.S. Defence Innovation Unit (DIU) and the Indian Defence Innovation Organization – Innovation for Defence Excellence (DIO-IDEX).

(b) The outcomes of the 2 + 2 meeting are recorded in the Joint Statement issued by both the countries on 6th September 2018. Copy of the same is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) India and the United States have engaged on the issue of waivers in context of imposition of U.S. sanctions on Iran. In a media interaction on 5th November, 2018, the U.S. Secretary of State stated that India is one of the eight countries that have received exemptions in connection with import of oil from Iran.

Statement*Outcomes of India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue*

September 06, 2018

Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj and Minister of Defence Nirmala Sitharaman welcomed Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and Secretary of Defence James N. Mattis to India on September 6, 2018 for the inaugural India-U.S. Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue. They welcomed the launch of the 2+2 Dialogue as a reflection of the shared commitment by Prime Minister Modi and President Trump to provide a positive, forward-looking vision for the India-U.S. strategic partnership and to promote synergy in their diplomatic and security efforts. They resolved to continue meetings in this format on an annual basis.

Celebrating over 70 years of diplomatic cooperation, the Ministers reaffirmed their view that India and the United States, as sovereign democracies founded on the values of freedom, justice, and commitment to the rule of law, must continue to lead global efforts to promote peace, prosperity, and security.

Recognizing their two countries are strategic partners, major and independent stakeholders in world affairs, the Ministers committed to work together on regional and global issues, including in bilateral, trilateral, and quadrilateral formats. The two sides further decided to establish secure communication between the Minister of External Affairs of India and the U.S. Secretary of State, and between the Minister of Defence of India and the U.S. Secretary of Defence, to help maintain regular high-level communication on emerging developments.

Strengthening the Defence and Security Partnership:

The Ministers reaffirmed the strategic importance of India's designation as a Major Defence Partner (MDP) of the United States and committed to expand the scope of India's MDP status and take mutually agreed upon steps to strengthen defence ties further and promote better defence and security coordination and cooperation. They noted the rapid growth in bilateral defence trade and the qualitative improvement in levels of technology and equipment offered by the United States to India in recent years. They welcomed the inclusion of India by the United States among the top tier of countries entitled to license-free exports, re-exports, and transfers under License Exception Strategic Trade Authorization (STA-1) and also committed to explore other means to support further expansion in two-way trade in defence items and defence manufacturing supply chain linkages. They welcomed the signing of a Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) that will

facilitate access to advanced defence systems and enable India to optimally utilize its existing U.S.-origin platforms. The Ministers also announced their readiness to begin negotiations on an Industrial Security Annex (ISA) that would support closer defence industry cooperation and collaboration.

Recognizing their rapidly growing military-to-military ties, the two sides committed to the creation of a new, tri-services exercise and to further increase personnel exchanges between the two militaries and defence organizations. The Ministers reviewed the recent growth of bilateral engagements in support of maritime security and maritime domain awareness, and committed to expand cooperation. Toward that end, the Ministers committed to start exchanges between the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) and the Indian Navy, underscoring the importance of deepening their maritime cooperation in the western Indian Ocean.

Acknowledging the unique role of technology in the India-U.S. defence partnership, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to continue to encourage and prioritize co-production and co-development projects through the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI), and to pursue other avenues of defence innovation cooperation. In this regard, they welcomed the conclusion of a Memorandum of Intent between the U.S. Defence Innovation Unit (DIU) and the Indian Defence Innovation Organization – Innovation for Defence Excellence (DIO-iDEX).

Welcoming the expansion of bilateral counter-terrorism cooperation, the Ministers announced their intent to increase information-sharing efforts on known or suspected terrorists and to implement UN Security Council Resolution 2396 on returning foreign terrorist fighters. They committed to enhance their ongoing cooperation in multilateral fora such as the UN and FATF. They reaffirmed their support for a UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism that will advance and strengthen the framework for global cooperation and reinforce the message that no cause or grievance justifies terrorism. The Ministers denounced any use of terrorist proxies in the region, and in this context, they called on Pakistan to ensure that the territory under its control is not used to launch terrorist attacks on other countries. On the eve of the 10-year anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai attack, they called on Pakistan to bring to justice expeditiously the perpetrators of the Mumbai, Pathankot, Uri, and other cross-border terrorist attacks. The Ministers welcomed the launch of a bilateral dialogue on designation of terrorists in 2017, which is strengthening cooperation and action against terrorist groups, including Al-Qa'ida, ISIS, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Hizb-ul Mujahideen, the Haqqani Network, Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, D-Company, and their affiliates. The two sides further reaffirmed their commitment

to ongoing and future cooperation to ensure a stable cyberspace environment and to prevent cyber-attacks.

Partners in the Indo-Pacific and Beyond:

The Ministers reviewed cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, noting that the common principles for the region articulated in the India-U.S. Joint Statement of June, 2017 have been further amplified by President Donald Trump at Danang, Vietnam on November 10, 2017, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Singapore at the Shangri-La Dialogue on June 1, 2018. Both sides committed to work together and in concert with other partners toward advancing a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, based on recognition of ASEAN centrality and on respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, rule of law, good governance, free and fair trade, and freedom of navigation and overflight. Noting the importance of infrastructure and connectivity for the Indo-Pacific region, both sides emphasized the need to work collectively with other partner countries to support transparent, responsible, and sustainable debt financing practices in infrastructure development.

The Ministers reaffirmed their shared commitment to a united, sovereign, democratic, inclusive, stable, prosperous, and peaceful Afghanistan. The two sides expressed support for an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process. The United States acknowledged India's longstanding and ongoing contributions of economic assistance to Afghanistan and also welcomed India's enhanced role in Afghanistan's development and stabilization.

India welcomed the recent U.S.-North Korea summit. The two sides pledged to work together to counter North Korea's weapons of mass destruction programs and to hold accountable those countries that have supported them.

The United States welcomed India's accession to the Australia Group, the Wassenaar Arrangement, and the Missile Technology Control Regime and reiterated its full support for India's immediate accession to the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

Promoting Prosperity and People-to-People Ties:

The Ministers recognized the importance and the potential for increasing bilateral trade, investment, innovation, and job creation in both countries. Both sides committed to further expanding and balancing the trade and economic partnership consistent with their leaders' 2017 joint statement, including by facilitating trade, improving market access, and addressing issues of interest to both sides. In this regard, both sides welcomed the ongoing exchanges between the Ministry of Commerce of India

and the Office of the United States Trade Representative and hoped for mutually acceptable outcomes.

Both sides looked forward to full implementation of the civil nuclear energy partnership and collaboration between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Westinghouse Electric Company for the establishment of six nuclear power plants in India.

Observing the strong ties of family, education, and business, and the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation that unite their people, the Ministers highlighted the unmatched people-to-people ties between their countries and recognized the benefits to both nations and the world from these ties, including the free flow of ideas and collaboration in health, space, oceans, and other areas of science and technology.

The next 2+2 meeting is to be held in the United States in 2019.

September 06, 2018

New Delhi.

Carelessness in destroying unused arms

1924. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that carelessness in destroying unused arms at Arms Depot at Pulgaon, Wardha District of Maharashtra has caused loss of human lives recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has initiated any enquiry into the incident and the steps Government is taking to avoid such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b): No, Sir. There was an accident during destruction of old/unserviceable/obsolete/rejected ammunition by Ordnance Factory Khamaria (OFK) under technical supervision of CAD, Pulgaon which caused loss of human lives. On 20.11.2018, Ammunition boxes containing unserviceable ammunition were being unloaded and shifted from the vehicle to the demolition pit. During this shifting of ammunition, one of the boxes fell down and exploded. In the incident, 6 persons died and 19 persons were injured.

(c) Board of Enquiry (BOE) headed by Controller, Controllerate of Quality Assurance (Military Explosives) [CQA (ME)], Pune as Chairman comprising members