

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:85

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000

C.T.B.T. ISSUE .

MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government have included the issue of signing the C.T.B.T. Agreement in the proposed agenda to be discussed during the proposed visit of U.S. President;

(b) whether the Government have decided to sign on C.T.B.T. agreement;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to consult all major political parties before signing this agreement; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to evolve a common consensus on this issue before the U.S. President's proposed visit to India in the present international situation to do so with the details of its outcome, if any, thereof indicating how far a consensus has been reached in the matter?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) No Sir. India and the United States agree that the visit of the US President to India is to lay the foundation of a forward looking and qualitatively new relationship between the two countries. Towards this end, the two sides will discuss all bilateral and international issues of mutual interest, including political and security matters.

(b) to (e) India's position on the CTBT was articulated by the Prime Minister in the UN General Assembly in September 1998 and in Parliament in December 1998. This was reiterated by the External Affairs Minister at the UN General Assembly in September 1999. The priority of our meeting the country's national security concerns having been addressed, the government believes that we now need to convey reassurance to the international community and, in this regard, desire to develop a national consensus. The Government is encouraged by the constructive response to its efforts to build a consensus on the issue of the CTBT and intends to pursue this exercise.