

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3198  
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000  
WITHDRAWAL OF SANCTIONS  
JITENDRA PRASADA;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

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

- (a) whether India has urged Japan to withdraw the economic sanctions imposed on India in the aftermath of Pokharan nuclear tests;
- (b) if so, whether there is any difference over the nuclear issues between both the countries;
- (c) if so, whether the recent Defence Minister's visit to Japan has further improved the relations between both the countries;
- (d) if so, whether Japan has agreed to withdraw the economic sanctions imposed by them in 1998 and began a new round of discussion for building a broad based partnership in economic and security sphere;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which these issues are likely to be discussed and these sanctions withdrawn?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

- (a) Our position regarding the withdrawal of the economic sanctions imposed by Japan is that this is a decision that Japan has to take in exercise of its sovereign right and shall undertake whenever the Government of Japan thinks it appropriate.
- (b) Japan considers India to be a non Nuclear Weapon State in terms of NPT and would like India to fulfil the benchmarks of the UNSC Resolution 1172 including signing the NPT and CTBT. India's position on NPT is that it is a discriminatory and flawed Treaty. India's position on 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. Our position remains the same. Government is committed to working towards a national consensus. We continue to be guided by the imperative of India's strategic autonomy and the need to maintain a credible minimum nuclear deterrent.
- (c) The visit of Raksha Mantri, Shri George Fernandes, to Japan from January 10 - 14, 2000 helped consolidate our bilateral ties. Both sides agreed to commence a regular security and defence related dialogue and expand defence personnel exchanges, education and training.
- (d) Japan's position continues to remain that removal of sanctions remains conditional on the progress India makes on the nuclear issue including signing of the CTBT.
- (e) & (f) Does not arise.