

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:565  
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001  
INDO-US TIES  
ANANTA NAYAK

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

- (a) whether the government have any proposal to establish better relations with the United States; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) India and the United States are committed to building on the momentum of recent years and complete the process of qualitatively transforming their bilateral relations.

(b) Government has had a high level of engagement with the new U.S. Administration since it entered office in January 2001. Regular consultations have been held at the ministerial and official levels across the full range of bilateral activities. Prime Minister visited Washington from 7-9 November 2001 at the invitation of President Bush. The two leaders agreed on a number of initiatives to build a mutually beneficial long-term partnership between India and the United States.

The two sides have agreed to maintain and expand the wide-ranging architecture of institutional dialogue established in March 2000. Cooperation has been initiated in nuclear energy and civilian space applications. The two sides will discuss ways to establish a framework for high-technology commerce. The ongoing consultations on international security issues, including missile defence, will be enhanced through a 'New Strategic Framework Dialogue'. The bilateral Defence Policy Group will meet in Delhi in early December to intensify defence and military exchanges. The two sides also agreed to enlarge the wide-ranging Bilateral Economic Dialogue by including two additional components on energy and environment issues.