

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:976

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000

RECOGNITION TO INDIA AS A NUCLEAR POWER

BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL);DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether United States has outlined a two step plan to strip India of its nuclear weapons and opposed any recognition to India as nuclear power;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether India is under pressure of U.S. to sign on C.T.B.T.; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a), (b) Government have seen reports to this effect quoting a US official. Such statements are completely unrealistic and untenable. US is fully aware that India is a State possessing nuclear weapons and committed to maintaining a minimum credible nuclear deterrent. After the May 1998 nuclear tests, the Prime Minister declared 'India is a nuclear weapon State. This is a reality that cannot be denied. It is not a conferment that we seek; nor is it a status for others to grant.'

(c) & (d) No Sir. Government's approach on the CTBT is guided solely by India's national interest and the building of a national consensus in this regard.