

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4719
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2002
DEFENCE TIES WITH USA
ANANTA NAYAK;SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal for expansion of bilateral defence cooperation with United States of America;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government also have a proposal to explore avenues in commercial defence ties with United States; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken in that regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Bi-lateral defence cooperation between India and the U.S. is being promoted through the India-US Defence Policy Group set up in 1995. The DPG has met four times in the last seven years, to discuss defence cooperation in an increasing number/variety of areas including service-to-service cooperation. It would not be in the interest of national security to give full details of such defence cooperation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Discussions on commercial defence ties with the US is still at a preliminary/nascent stage. It would not be in the public interest to give further details regarding such discussions.