

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:51

ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003

INDO-U.S. COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR SPACE AREAS

BODAKUNTI VENKATESHWARLU;DADICHILUKA VEERA GOURI SANKARA RAO

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

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- (a) whether the United States has declined to help India to set up nuclear power plants;
- (b) whether the issue of possible Indo-U.S. cooperation in the nuclear and space areas was raised by India in the recent talks with U.S.;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the specific areas in which U.S. - India high technology cooperation is likely to take place?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a) to (d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) – (d) OF THE ANSWER TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 51 T ANSWERED ON 23-07-2003 regarding INDO-U.S. COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR/SPACE AREAS

Government has not requested United States assistance in setting up nuclear power plants.

Government is engaged in a dialogue with the United States to develop and expand civilian nuclear and space cooperation, after the United States lifted, in September 2001, the sanctions imposed on India in May 1998. This dialogue is predicated on India maintaining its indigenous nuclear weapons and missiles programmes.

There has been progress in these areas. There is now no regulatory prohibition on supply of U.S. 'dual use' goods and technologies to India's civilian nuclear and civilian space programmes, although policy-related restrictions continue to remain in place. India and the United States have initiated five safety related projects for safeguarded nuclear facilities. Exchange of visits by U.S. and Indian nuclear regulatory officials has also commenced. In the area of space, the two sides have renewed the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in earth and atmospheric sciences. The United States has offered to resume cooperation in space applications for sustainable development, weather research missions, tele-medicine, tele-education and disaster management. Joint workshops on civilian space applications and research have also started.

As part of the process of stimulating high technology commerce, including trade in 'dual use' items, the two sides have established a bilateral High Technology Cooperation Group, which held its first meeting in Washington D.C. on 1-2 July 2003. This is the first such group that the United States has set up with any country. The Group discussed regulatory and promotional issues related to enhancing trade in 'dual use' goods and technologies, as well as advancing cooperation in areas such as information technology, life sciences, nano-technology and defence technology.