

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4298
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2000
MILITARY TIES WITH AUSTRALIA
JASWANT SINGH YADAV

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Australia has indicated to resume military ties with India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the stand of India in this regard; and
- (d) the extent to which it is likely to help improving bilateral relations between the two countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): During his visit to India in March 2000, the Australian Foreign Minister had discussions withour External Affairs Minister. During the discussions, both the countries felt that their bilateral relations should not be held hostage by the single issue of non-proliferation and agreed 'in principle' to resume their defence relations. The modalities of the resumption of defence ties would be worked out through diplomatic channels.

Resumption of defence relations would include restoration of Defence Attaches, exchange of visits between the defence establishments of both the countries, military training programmes, joint naval exercises and other forms of defence cooperation.