

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:450

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2006

INDIA S STAND ON NUCLEAR ISSUE OF IRAN

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Appadurai Shri M.;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Gandhi Smt. Maneka;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan;Singh Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India took part in the voting against Iran in the last meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India voted in favour of American -European alliance in all resolutions of the Atomic Energy Organisation in the matter related to imposing ban on Iran`s strategic Atomic Energy production;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether India has brought about some changes in its traditional policy towards Iran;
- (f) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the manner in which this is likely to affect our bilateral relations with Iran?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (d): India took part in the voting at the IAEA Board of Governors on 4th February 2006 on resolution on `Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement in the Islamic Republic of Iran` and voted in favour. Of the 35 member countries of the IAEA Board, 27 voted in favour, 3 against and 5 abstained. Our vote was in view of our policy to avoid confrontation and resolve outstanding issues through dialogue and diplomacy within the framework of IAEA.

(e) to (g): Our vote should not be seen in any way as detracting from our traditionally close and friendly relations with Iran. We do not expect it to affect friendly relations between the two countries.