

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3068
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2004
INCLUSION OF INDIA IN MISSILE DEFENCE PROGRAMME
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formed an opinion on the US offer to include India in the missile defense programme;
- (b) if so, whether Washington gave presentation and briefings on the said programme at a three day meeting of the Defense Policy Group that concluded in Simla on June 4, 2004 which guides the Indo-US military relations;
- (c) if so, the details of the decision taken by the Government on the above matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a)-(c) Presentations and briefings by the US side on missile defense have been on the agenda of the India-US Defense Policy Group since 2001. The US side made a presentation on missile defense in Delhi on 1 June 2004 at the last meeting of the Defense Policy Group. There is no change in the policy of the Government under which it has held preliminary discussions and dialogue with the US on the subject of missile defense.