

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:121
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007
VISIT OF RUSSIAN PRESIDENT
Nayak Shri Ananta;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Russian President recently visited India;
- (b) if so, the details of the issues discussed and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether any bilateral agreements including the setting up of nuclear plants in the country were signed during his visit;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the total number of nuclear plants proposed to be set up in the country under the said agreement, State-wise;
- (f) the time by which these plants are likely to be set up;
- (g) whether Russia has also agreed to help India in getting an exemption in the Nuclear Suppliers Group;
- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) the extent to which Russian help will enable India to expand its nuclear energy programme and sustain energy security?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (I) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 121 REGARDING 'VISIT OF RUSSIAN PRESIDENT' FOR ANSWER ON 07/03/2007

(a) Yes. The Russian President visited India from 25-26 January 2007.

(b) The two Sides discussed a wide range of issues relating to regional and international matters of mutual interest and concern. The key issues of cooperation in the fields of defence, space, energy, science and technology, trade and investment were deliberated upon. The results of the discussions have been outlined in the 'Joint Statement on the outcome of the Official Visit of H.E. Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation to the Republic of India' issued on 25th January 2007, which is available in the public domain.

(c)&(d) A number of bilateral documents were concluded during the visit but no agreement was signed on the setting up of nuclear power plants. Discussions were held on the construction of additional nuclear power plants at the Kudankulam site as well as at new sites and a Memorandum of Intent to this effect was signed. 'Joint Statement by the Prime Minister of the Republic of India and the President of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the field of Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy' was issued on 25th January 2007. This joint statement outlines plans for cooperation with the Russian Federation in the area of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The other documents signed were as follows:

- (1) Joint Statement on the outcome of the official visit of the President of the Russian Federation to India;
- (2) Programme of Cultural Exchanges for the years 2007-09;
- (3) Protocol on holding 'Year of Russia in India' in the year 2008 and 'Year of India in Russia' in the Year 2009;
- (4) Agreement on access of the Indian Party to navigation signals of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System GLONASS for peaceful purposes;
- (5) Agreement on access of the Indian Party to a part of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System GLONASS Radio Frequency Spectrum;
- (6) Agreement on cooperation in the joint satellite project 'YOUTHSAT'; and
- (7) Protocol on exchange of information on the movement of goods and conveyances between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation.

(e)&(f) The Memorandum of Intent referred to in the previous paragraph envisages construction of four additional nuclear power plant units at the Kudankulam site as well as construction of Russian design nuclear power plants at new sites in India. No other details regarding the number or sites for new nuclear power plants and possible time frame have emerged so far.

(g),(h)&(i) Russia is collaborating with India in the construction of 2 units of 1000 MW capacity nuclear reactors in Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu. Russia is supportive of wider cooperation with India in the area of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and recognizes that nuclear energy provides a safe, environmental friendly and sustainable source of energy. Russia and India have jointly underlined the need to further develop international cooperation in promoting the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with their respective international commitments and national legislations. Specifically, Russia expects to continue to work with the participating Governments of Nuclear Suppliers` Group [NSG] to make an exception in its guidelines to facilitate full civilian nuclear energy cooperation with India.