

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1383

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007

IMPORTANCE OF NAM

Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in her recent statement, the US-Secretary of State suggested the futility of continuing Non-Aligned Movement with elimination of the Power-Blocs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government had taken up the matter with US-Government; and
- (d) if so, the response of the US Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

- (a) Government have seen the statement in question, which suggested that non-alignment has lost its meaning.
- (b)-(d) In response to questions regarding the statement by US Secretary of State, GoI Official Spokesperson stated on June 29, 2007, that "There can be no question of India's firm and abiding commitment to non-alignment. The Non-Aligned Movement played a significant role in ending apartheid and colonialism. Today, its relevance continues in promoting South- South cooperation and the democratization of the international system. India remains committed to its ideals."