

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2232
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2004
MILITARY TIES WITH USA
Meghwal Shri Kailash

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether USA has shown its keenness on continuing close military ties with India;
- (b) if so, whether USA has offered missile defence and defence related technology and has proposed combined military exercises;
- (c) if so, the response of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has since finalized their policy in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

- (a) The US has shown keenness to continue military relations between the US and the Indian Armed Forces in the mutual interest. This was reiterated during the 6th meeting of the US-India Defence Policy Group held in India on June 1-2, 2004.
- (b) The US and India have had a dialogue on missile defence that has included briefings on the US Ballistic Missile Defence Programme. No specific offer for supply of missile defence technology was made nor sought. Combined military exercises are an integral aspect of India-US military-to-military relations. Enhanced access to defence related technology is a nascent area of US-India defence relations.
- (c) to (f): There are no specific proposals to which the government has responded as yet. The government seeks closer engagement and relations with the US, including in the area of defence, within the parameters of an independent policy in keeping with past traditions. Specific proposals will be considered on their merits and in the national interest.