

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:357
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER S VISIT TO USA
Dube Shri Ramesh;Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the External Affairs Minister visited the United States of America recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the details of agreements signed during his visit?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The External Affairs Minister visited Washington, USA during 24-25 March 2008. He met his counterpart, US Secretary of State, Dr Condoleezza Rice and called on the US President Mr.George W Bush. In these meetings, the Minister discussed all aspects of Indo-US relations including economic ties, defence cooperation, civil nuclear agreement as well as regional and global issues. Both sides reiterated their commitment to strengthening Indo-US relations. EAM invited Secretary Rice to visit India at a mutually convenient date. She has accepted the invitation.

(c) No bilateral agreements were signed during the visit.