

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:458  
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2004  
STRENGTHENING INDO US TIES  
Majhi Shri Parsuram

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has a proposal to further strengthen Indo-US Ties;
- (b) if so, the efforts made in this regard; and
- (c) the details of the various bilateral issues on which talks are likely to be initiated?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) India accords high importance to its relations with the United States. As the two largest democracies, it is imperative that relations between the two countries maintain a steady course. The new government will continue the policy that seeks to further strengthen, widen and deepen India's relations with the US.
- (b) EAM had a productive meeting on June 10, 2004 with the US Secretary of State Colin Powell during his visit to Washington DC for the funeral of President Ronald Reagan. An India-US Space Conference was held in Bangalore from June 21-25, 2004. Earlier, the 6th meeting of the India-US Defence Policy Group had taken place on June 1-2, 2004. Indo-US cooperation is ongoing and marked by continuity.
- (c) The comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue Architecture that covers the main elements of our relationship is the primary vehicle for taking our ties forward. Consultations are ongoing and regular and take place at a mutually agreed time table.