

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1821
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
INDO-IRAN RELATIONSHIP
Patil Shri C. R.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the stand of India towards Iran in the wake of sanctions by U.S.A. and other western countries against Iran; and
- (b) the steps being taken to strengthen and improve our relations with Iran?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) Government is aware of certain unilateral sanctions imposed by US and other Western countries on the Iran nuclear issue. The UN Security Council also passed UNSC Resolution 1929 on the same issue. On the Iran nuclear issue, India's consistent position has been that Iran has a right to develop peaceful use of nuclear energy while fulfilling all its obligations and commitments. The Iran nuclear issue should be resolved through peaceful diplomacy, and the frame work of the IAEA provides the best forum to address technical aspects of the issue.

(b) India and Iran share civilisational and historical ties which underpin a rich and multi-faceted contemporary relationship strengthened by regular interactions, both official and non-official. There have been regular high-level exchanges including consultations at Ministerial level to discuss bilateral relations and issues of regional and global importance. Meetings of the Joint Commission and Joint Working Groups and exchange of delegations have been held to promote economic and commercial cooperation, cultural and educational ties and address consular matters. The interactions of academic and research institutions as also of chambers of commerce and industry and commercial entities have been facilitated. These include the organization of bilateral seminars, meetings and exchange of visits and promotional events.