

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3599  
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009  
SECURITY OF NUCLEAR ARSENAL IN PAKISTAN  
Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

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

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn on the recent statement made by the President of Pakistan about the possibility of its nuclear arsenal falling into the hands of Taliban;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any precautionary measure; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The German Magazine "Der Spiegel" on 5th June 2009 in an interview with the President of Pakistan asked 'Your wife, Benazir Bhutto, who was assassinated by terrorists, feared that your country's nuclear weapons could fall into the hands of Islamist extremists. Do you share this fear?' President Asif Ali Zardari responded that "if democracy in this country fails, if the world doesn't help democracy – then any eventuality is a possibility"
- (c) & (d) Government is committed to take all necessary steps to safeguard the security of its citizens and territory.