

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6697  
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2013  
NUCLEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH AUSTRALIA  
Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

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

- (a) whether the first-ever talks on nuclear partnership with Australia has begun;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof; and
- (c) if not, the time by which it is likely to start?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

(a) to (c) During the state visit of Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard to India in October 2012, the Indian and Australian Prime Ministers announced that the two countries would commence negotiations on a bilateral Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement. The first round of negotiations on this bilateral agreement was held in New Delhi on 19 March, 2013. The next round is expected to be held later this year in Australia.