

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4362

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009

VOTE IN FAVOUR OF IAEA

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas

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

- (a) whether India had voted in favour of the IAEA resolution against building a uranium enrichment plant by Iran; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIS. M. KRISHNA)

(a) Yes. India voted in favour of the resolution of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Iran's nuclear issue.

(b) The resolution was adopted by 25 votes in favour, 3 against, 6 abstentions and 1 absent. India's position was laid out in the attached Explanation of Vote.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4362 REGARDING "VOTE IN FAVOUR OF IAEA" FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2009

Explanation of Vote

The Indian delegation has taken careful note of the report of the DG on Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement and Relevant Provisions of Security Council Resolutions in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In his Report the DG has noted that while the Agency has continued to verify the non-diversion of declared nuclear material in Iran, there has however, been no movement on remaining issues of concern which need to be clarified for the Agency to verify the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme.

The DG concluded that 'Iran's failure to notify the Agency of the existence of this facility until September 2009, rather than as soon as the decision to construct it or to authorize construction was taken, was inconsistent with its obligations under the Subsidiary Arrangements to its Safeguards Agreement and that Iran's late declaration of the new facility reduces confidence in the absence of other nuclear facilities under construction in Iran which have not been declared to the Agency.'

India has consistently supported the right of all states to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy consistent with the respective obligations that they have undertaken. In Iran's case which is a signatory to the NPT, it has all the rights and obligations that go with its membership of the NPT pertaining to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. We also underline the importance of the full and effective implementation of all safeguards obligations under taken by member states of the IAEA.

Our support for the resolution is based on the key points contained in the Report of the DG. During previous Board meetings we had underlined the critical importance of continued cooperation and dialogue between the Agency and Iran. The Agency's safeguards system is the bedrock of the international community's confidence that peaceful uses of nuclear energy and non-proliferation objectives can be pursued in a balanced manner. The integrity of this system should be preserved.

India has considered the role of the DG has having a vital bearing on the consideration of all issues by the Board of Governors. The conclusions he has drawn in his report are therefore difficult to ignore.

In recent months we were encouraged by the new pathways of engagement that had opened up with Iran, including the recent meetings in Geneva and Vienna which gave rise to hopes of constructive and productive results. As such we do not believe that the adoption of this resolution should divert the parties away from dialogue. This resolution cannot be the basis of a renewed punitive approach or new sanctions. In fact, the coming weeks should be used by all concerned to expand the diplomatic space to satisfactorily address all outstanding issues. India firmly supports keeping the door open for dialogue and avoidance of confrontation.