

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4384
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009
ARMS TRADE TREATY
Meinya Dr. Thokchom;Shekhar Shri Neeraj

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2001) and United Nations Resolution on Arms Trade Treaty is binding on India;
- (b) if so, the measures so far taken to tackle unregulated small arms proliferation and illicit arms trade across India; and
- (c) the outcome of the measures taken so far?

Answer

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

(a) No. The United Nations Programme of Action (UN PoA) on Small arms and Light Weapons (SALW) is the outcome document of an international conference held in 2001. This is a political declaration and is not legally binding on India. Nonetheless as a responsible state and in view of the priority it accords to effectively dealing with illicit trafficking in arms, India has stated that it is committed to the effective and comprehensive implementation of the UN PoA. The United Nations Resolution on an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is a voted resolution on which India has abstained so far. Negotiations on the proposed ATT are yet to begin. The relevant resolution therefore is not binding on India.

(b) & (c) Does not arise.