

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2497

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015

INDO SRI LANKA NUCLEAR PACT

Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao;Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of the Indo-Sri Lanka nuclear pact signed recently along with the benefits likely to accrue to India as a result thereof;
- (b) whether India has expressed its concern over the increasing influence of China in the neighbouring areas including Sri Lanka; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of Sri Lanka thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) The Agreement between Sri Lanka and India on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was signed on 16 February 2015. The Agreement is expected to facilitate development and strengthening of mutually beneficial scientific, technical and economic cooperation between the two countries in the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

(b) & (c) Government is aware that China is involved in the construction of or assistance to infrastructure projects in our neighborhood, including in Sri Lanka. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it. India is an active development partner of its neighbours and is involved in various projects in these countries. India's relations with other countries stand on their own footing and are independent of the relations of those countries with third countries.