GOVERNMENT OF INDIA EXTERNAL AFFAIRS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:434 ANSWERED ON:22.07.2015 Law Suit Against India in ICJ Mahajan Smt. Poonam

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Republic of the Marshal Islands filed a lawsuit against India at the International Court of Justice in The Hague for failure to fulfil the obligations of customary international law with respect to cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
(c) the current status of the lawsuit?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Republic of the Marshall Islands has instituted proceedings at the International Court of Justice against all nuclear weapon states, including India, contending breach of customary law obligations on nuclear disarmament flowing from Article VI of the NPT. Government believes that given our consistent and principled position on the NPT, NPT provisions cannot be extended to India as a legal obligation. India has written to the International Court of Justice denying this contention and reiterating India's position of principle on nuclear disarmament.