

Title: Statement made by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister regarding recent visit of Mr. Bill Richardson, Secretary of Energy, United States of America on 26th October, 1999 and also laid a copy of the Joint Statement on cooperation in Energy and Related Environmental Aspects.

11.10 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, on behalf of Minister of External Affairs I make the statement. The United States Secretary of Energy, Mr. Bill Richardson visited Delhi on 26th October.

Secretary Richardson addressed a CII Conference on Energy, Efficiency and Environment, and interacted with a number of business and industry leaders.

His official programme included meetings with the Minister of Power, Minister of Environment and Forest and Minister of External Affairs.

Delegation level talks were held with representatives of all the concerned Ministries and chaired by the Minister of External Affairs. Secretary Richardson also called on the Prime Minister and handed over a letter from President Clinton addressed to the Prime Minister.

Cooperation in energy and related matters has been an important component of our bilateral relations with the United States. The purpose of Secretary Richardson's visit was to review as well as to provide a renewed thrust to our cooperation in energy and related environmental matters, in a more integrated and focussed manner. The visit provided an opportunity for substantive discussions on these aspects.

We welcome this visit by Mr. Richardson, which is part of the ongoing process of developing a broad-based relationship with the United States, and expanding and diversifying areas of bilateral cooperation for mutual benefit.

During the visit, a Joint Statement on Cooperation in Energy and Related Environmental Aspects was signed. A copy of this Joint Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

JOINT STATEMENT (ENGLISH & HINDI) ON COOPERATION IN ENERGY AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS SIGNED DURING THE VISIT OF MR. BILL RICHARDSON, U.S. SECRETARY OF ENERGY, ON 26th OCTOBER, 1999*

*(Placed in Library. See No. LT 72/99)

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Please allow me to speak. You cannot run the House in this manner.

MR. SPEAKER: There are two more items, and I will allow you after that. Shri Yashwant Sinha.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, this is a separate item, please understand. I will come to you later.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : My point of order is that in today's Revised List of Business, at item no. 9, my name is there for presentation of a petition, and according to the Rule Book ...

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to your item also. This is a separate item, please understand.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Okay.