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Title: Statement correcting answer given to Unstarred Question No. 389 dated 22.02.2006 regarding Indian Stake in Syrian Oil Field.

* THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): I invite attention to the reply given to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 389 replied on 22nd February, 2006 regarding Indian Stake in Syrian Oil Field. The correct reply is reproduced below:

- (a) The matter was raised informally by the US.
- (b) The U.S. asked that the investment be reconsidered in view of Syria's regional policies.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Does not arise.

As soon as this inadvertent mistake came to notice, steps have been taken to correct the reply. â€! (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): The action which has been taken is not stated in this answer also. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIE. AHAMED: This is a reply to an Unstarred Question. Therefore, no oral answer is required. I have submitted my reply as soon as this inadvertent mistake was brought to my notice. ...(Interruptions)

A Minister has every right to correct his answer. Even as per Direction 16A of the hon. Speaker, the Minister has a right to correct his reply. ...(*Interruptions*) For the last five terms I have been a Member of this House. ...(*Interruptions*) This is for the first time you are telling me that correcting the answer is not correct. ...(*Interruptions*)

* Placed in Library. See No. LT 3719/2006)