

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2540
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.01.2018

WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT

2540. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the events and the plenary meeting at Vienna that led India's inclusion into the Wassenaar Arrangement;
- (b) the perceived benefits of this inclusion;
- (c) whether this inclusion will also pave way for India to be included in the Nuclear Suppliers' Group; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the implications, if any, of this inclusion?

ANSWER

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

(a) India formally applied for membership of the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) in October 2016. This was followed by a period of intensified engagement with the Arrangement as well as members thereof. In its Plenary meeting held in Vienna on 6-7 December 2017, the WA took a consensus decision to admit India. Following the completion of the requisite internal procedures, India joined the Arrangement on 8 December 2017.

(b) India's WA membership is expected to facilitate high technology tie-ups with Indian industry and ease access to high-tech items for our defence and space programmes. India's entry into the Wassenaar Arrangement would further contribute to international security and non-proliferation objectives.

(c) & (d) The WA and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) are two distinct export control regimes. India remains engaged with all NSG members at the relevant levels in the context of its application for membership.
