

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.537
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2018

AUSTRALIA GROUP

*537. SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has been admitted as the 43rd member of the Australia Group;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the benefits accrued by joining the Group including keeping a tight control over exports of substances used in the making of chemical weapons?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 537 REGARDING “AUSTRALIA GROUP” FOR ANSWER ON 04.04.2018

India joined the Australia Group on 19 January 2018 following the completion of internal procedures for joining the Group. The Australia Group decided to admit India as the Group’s 43rd Participant through a consensus decision.

India’s chemical and biotechnology sectors are significant contributors in the GDP. Membership of the Australia Group (AG) will ease the access to chem-bio technologies and enable our competitive and growing chemical and biotechnology sectors to increase their share in international trade of value added chem-bio items.

Proliferation of dual-use chemicals is a cause for concern given the increasing access to such items by terrorists and non-state actors and their illicit use in chemical weapons. India’s membership of the AG would be mutually beneficial and further contribute to international security and non-proliferation objectives. India’s export control regulations will not impede the normal trade of materials and equipment used for legitimate purposes.
