

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.31
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2018

CANCELLATION OF 2 PLUS 2 MEETING WITH US

31. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the US Administration has unilaterally and indefinitely postponed the proposed meeting of its Secretaries of State and Defence with the Indian Ministers of External Affairs and Defence and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether such abrupt announcement of postponement signifies that the US has put the diplomatic and strategic relations with India on the back-burner and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether issues have cropped up between the US and India in connection with the imposition of sanctions by the US against Russia and Iran with whom India has trade and strategic relations and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether India is proceeding with its intended purchase of the S-400 Triumf Missile from Russia and oil from Iran as the discontinuance would be disastrous for India and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the US President is peeved over the fact that the Harley Davidson motorcycle imported from the US is subject to import duties on par with other such items and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) No. The meeting of Ministers of External Affairs and Defence with U.S. Secretaries of State and Defense in 2+2 format originally scheduled 06 July 2018, was postponed not unilaterally by the U.S. side, but after informing the Government of India. It was postponed at the request of US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, on account of his unavoidable and unforeseen commitments. On 27 June 2018, in a telephone conversation with EAM, Secretary Pompeo expressed regret and sought understanding for the postponement. On 28 June 2018, U.S. Embassy in New Delhi in its press release stated that "the scheduling change was prompted by reasons entirely unrelated to the bilateral relationship....The U.S. remains firmly committed to a strong relationship with India". The two sides are in contact to identify mutually convenient dates for the meeting.

The postponement of 2+2 meeting is in no way related to any of the issues mentioned at c, d & e of the question.
