

Review Indo-US nuclear agreement: Ex PM

Absolutely ... the US refused help to India for decades.

Chennai
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Former Prime Minister V P Singh today asked the government to review the Indo-US nuclear agreement saying Washington was trying to pressure New Delhi into toeing its line on Iran and "extract" other facilities.

"We must review the entire agreement I supported this agreement when it was signed. But now when we see that they are using it to extract facilities from us in accordance to their own interests, we must review it. Why are they connecting our vote on Iran with the agreement," Singh told reporters here.

"How much will be the total cost we have to pay for a future (US) promise of giving us some material or consider us a nuclear state? They will only consider us a nuclear state under their umbrella ... like in case of Japan or South Korea. India is a big power," the former Premier said.

He also came out in support of Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Anil Kakodkar's reported statement that putting the Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) programme in the civilian list would affect both long term energy security and maintaining the minimum credible deterrent.

Asked whether he supported Kakodkar on the issue, Singh said the AEC chief was speaking about India's national interests and a matter of prime importance.

Asserting that India cannot "give in to US demands", he said "we have alternative uses for the FBRs ... on what they (US) are exploiting us is that we are short of uranium ... That is why we went to use plutonium. We have the largest deposit of thorium".

"What we have earned is absolutely our own and we must not give in to US demands", the former Prime Minister said. (Agencies)