

India disproves capping of its nuclear fissile material production

Absolutely, the United States has no IAEA standing to try to limit fuel of any independent country.

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NEW DELHI India will not accept any U.S. move to cap its production of enriched uranium and plutonium, the country's top nuclear scientist said in an interview published Friday.

"We will accept only a multilaterally negotiated nondiscriminatory and universally verifiable treaty (on fissile material production), negotiated at the Conference on Disarmament," The Hindu newspaper quoted Anil Kakodkar, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, as saying.

India considers reprocessing of uranium and plutonium an extremely important part of full civil nuclear cooperation with the United States, Kakodkar said.

U. S. President George Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh signed an agreement in July 2005 for the civilian use of nuclear technology

It would allow U.S. agencies and companies to sell India nuclear fuel and technology.

In return, New Delhi would have to strengthen nuclear safeguards to prevent export of nuclear weapons technology, allow international inspections of its civilian facilities and separate its civilian and military nuclear programs.

Kakodkar reiterated India's commitment to the Indo-U.S. agreement and said things could move forward on the basis of understanding reached between the two sides.

India's Hindu nationalist opposition and leftist allies say the government is succumbing to U.S. pressure allegedly aim at capping the country's independent nuclear program.

They have been seeking assurances from the government that India's nuclear program would not be curbed by what they describe as the shifting goal posts of American legislators.

The United States imposed nuclear and economic sanctions on India after it carried out nuclear tests in 1998, but gradually lifted them and has now agreed to cooperate in the civilian use of nuclear energy.

The U.S. House of Representatives approved the July 2005 agreement signed by President Bush and Indian Prime Minister Singh but added stringent new clauses, including requiring annual certification on the use of the technology and fuel for peaceful purposes.

The U.S. senate is expected to vote later this month on the agreement. The vote will be followed by several other legislative and diplomatic steps before the treaty can be enforced.