L.32: The Arms Trade Treaty

India participated actively in the negotiations for the Arms Trade Treaty. Underlying India’s participation in the extended ATT negotiations was the principle that member states have a legitimate right to self-defence and our belief that there is no conflict between the pursuit of national security objectives and the aspiration that the Arms Trade Treaty be strong, balanced and effective. This is consistent with the strong and effective national export controls that India already has in place with respect to export of defence items.

Various events this year have sharpened the focus on some of deficiencies in the ATT which India had highlighted during the negotiations- namely the imbalance in obligations between exporting and importing states and whether the treaty could make any meaningful impact on illicit trafficking in conventional arms and their illicit use by terrorists and unlawful non-state actors, which is now a major source of international instability. India is undertaking a thorough review of the ATT from our defence, security and foreign policy interests. Till this assessment is completed India is not in a position to take a final view on the ATT. We have therefore abstained on the draft resolution, L.32.