

I was not ticked off: Kakodkar

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Views on separation plan for civilian, military nuclear facilities

NEW DELHI: Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Anil Kakodkar said on Monday that he had not been "ticked off " for expressing his views on India's separation plan for its civilian and military nuclear facilities following the July 2005 agreement with the United States.

When asked by this correspondent whether he had been "ticked off" for his interview to The Indian Express earlier this month, Dr. Kakodkar said at Hyderabad House here "I don't think so."

Soon after the interview appeared, the Prime Minister's Office seemed to suggest that the views expressed by Dr. Kakodkar were limited to the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and not shared by the rest of the Government.

In the interview, Dr. Kakodkar, who is also the DAE Secretary, had said that India would not put the fast-breeder programme in the civil list as demanded by the United States. With the senior official himself setting the record straight, it would appear that Dr. Kakodkar's interview had the prior approval of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

"This [Dr. Kakodkar's] views is just one viewpoint. There are many other viewpoints which will have to be taken into account by the Government while arriving at an overall decision. There are views from other ministries and other institutions that will be factored [in]," a PMO spokesman was quoted as saying in The Economic Times on February 7.