Who controls nuclear button? BBC

By Our Monitoring Desk

Although Pakistan has announced its command and control structure, it has been kept ambiguous in it that as who has control on the nuclear button of the country, said the BBC in its report on Monday.

A Foreign Office spokesman was asked to explain as to who controls the nuclear programme as well as button of Pakistan during a Press briefing in Islamabad. His reply was that country's nuclear and command structure is perfect and flawless and the international community has no concern over it. He also said the nuclear assets of the country are in safe hands.

The broadcast said it has so far not been explained as to who controls the nuclear programme but it is generally believed that the President is their incharge. An open debate has so far not been held over who should get the full control of nuclear button, either the President or Prime Minister, the broadcast added.

When Pakistan conducted a string of nuclear tests in 1998 and joined the nuclear states club, the broadcast said, the country had a civilian government and President and that the issue about the control of nuclear programme as well as button was not debated for

long. Since the assuming of office, Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Jamali for the first time attended the meeting of National Command Authority in Rawalpindi and was briefed on the nuclear command and control structure and was taken into confidence on the issue, the broadcast added.

The broadcast further said there is a possibility that the Jamali government will explain as to who commands the nuclear programme as well as button of the country, but as the present administration is pro-Musharraf, it is not thought that a controversy or debate over who should control the nuclear button will start in Pakistan.

A Foreign Office spokesman was asked to explain as to who controls the nuclear programme as well as button of Pakistan during a Press briefing in Islamabad. His reply was that country's nuclear and command structure is perfect and flawless and the international community has no concern over it. He also said the nuclear assets of the country are in safe hands.

The broadcast said it has so far not been explained as to who controls the nuclear programme as well as button of the country but

it is generally believed that the President is their incharge. An open debate has so far not been held over who should get the full control of nuclear button, either the President or Prime Minister, the broadcast added.

When Pakistan conducted a string of nuclear tests in 1998 and joined the nuclear states club, the broadcast said, the country had a civilian government and President and that the issue about the control of nuclear programme as well as button was not debated for long.

Since the assuming of office, Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Jamali for the first time attended the meeting of National Command Authority in Rawalpindi and was briefed on the nuclear command and control structure and was taken into confidence on the issue, the broadcast added.

The broadcast further said there is a possibility that the Jamali government will explain as to who commands the nuclear programme as well as button of the country, but as the present administration is pro-Musharraf, it is not thought that a controversy or debate over who should control the nuclear button will start in Pakistan.