

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:64
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2001
JOINT NAVAL EXERCISE WITH FRANCE
A. VENKATESH NAIK;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of India and France had signed an agreement regarding holding of joint naval exercises;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of times the joint naval exercises were held during the last three years; and
- (d) the other areas of defence, in which the Government is likely to expand cooperation with France?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 64 FOR 22.11.2001

Naval exercises between the Indian Navy and the French Navy are carried out depending on the operational requirements of either Navy. It is an on-going exercise and no formal agreement regarding holding of joint exercises has been signed.

During the last three years, Indo-French joint naval exercises have been carried out six times.

Over the years India has procured defence equipment from France which includes armaments, Night Vision Devices and helicopters. India is keen for long term product support of the defence equipment procured from France. Likely areas for expanding the cooperation with France depends on the strategic requirement evaluated by our Armed Forces from time to time.