

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1692
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2002
INDIA'S PARTICIPATION IN ASIA PACIFIC SECURITY CONFERENCE
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India attended the meeting of Asia-Pacific Security Conference held in Singapore from May 31 to June 3, 2002;
- (b) if so, the names of the participating countries;
- (c) the issues discussed therein; and
- (c) the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, EU, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea Thailand, UK and USA participated in the Conference in addition to India.
- (c) & (d): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY GIVEN IN PARTS (c) & (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO FOR 25.7.2002

The theme of the Conference was the 'Security Challenges of the Asia-Pacific region'. Separate sessions were devoted to the US Strategy, China's military doctrine and approach, Managing the terrorist threat in SE Asia, Non-proliferation Challenges in the Asia Pacific and Perspectives on the organization of Asian security. Under these broad topics, the talks and discussions focused on the following issues:

- Traditional regional tensions and differences such as US-China vis-à-vis Taiwan & Koreas.
- Terrorism with its global reach.
- Proliferation challenges including weapons of mass destruction with non-state actors.
- Prospects of an Indo-Pak conflict that could cross the nuclear threshold.

The Conference was successfully used by the Raksha Mantri to project India's case in its ongoing fight against Cross Border Terrorism. RM explained the Indian stance regarding the Indo-Pak tensions, India's commitment to 'no first use' of nuclear weapons and the need for the world community to tackle the menace of state sponsored terrorism. The various bi-lateral discussions held by RM during the Conference, helped in building diplomatic opinion in favour of India in its ongoing fight against Cross Border Terrorism.