

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3633

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2002

MINISTERIAL MEETING OF ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Ministerial meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum was held on July 30, 2002;
- (b) if so, whether the Government sought international support against Pakistan sponsored terrorism at the meeting;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the extent to which India was successful to get the support of ASEAN countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir. The 9th annual ministerial meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was held in Brunei from 30-31 July 2002.

v (b), (c) & (d) In India's presentation on the situation in South Asia, Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross-border terrorism against India, and the need to put a permanent and verifiable end to it, was highlighted. The Chairman's Statement issued at the end of the ARF meeting notes that ARF Ministers `called for an immediate end to all terrorist activities in the region as an essential step to de-escalate the situation` in South Asia. Ministers also `earnestly looked to Pakistan to take urgent further steps to implement` its commitment to counter terrorism, which `would constitute an important step towards resumption of dialogue` with India.