

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1596
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2003
CONVERSION OF VIKRANT INTO MUSEUM
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Ministry of Defence has decided to save Vikrant and convert the same into a museum;
- (b) the details about the discussion held between Defence authorities and Government of Maharashtra during last two months in this regard;
- (c) the details about the revised proposal;
- (d) whether it would be a National War Museum giving inspiration to the young generation for nationalism;
- (e) whether Ministry of Defence would contribute towards the capital cost;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by Government to convert Vikrant into a museum?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (g): No final decision has been taken by the Ministry of Defence for conversion of INS Vikrant into a museum. The ship had been transferred free of cost to Government of Maharashtra in October 1998 for conversion into a maritime museum. No further action has been taken by the Government of Maharashtra in this connection. A meeting was held on 20.6.2003 at Mumbai where officers of Ministry of Defence, Navy and Government of Maharashtra were present. It was decided to prepare a draft project report to identify possible options to convert Vikrant into a museum. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defence has already sanctioned Rs. 5 crore for undertaking essential repairs of the ship.