

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1249
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
STRENGTHENING OF TIES WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES
VUKKALA RAJESWARAMMA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has proposed at a recently held Conference to conduct a motor car rally between India and ASEAN countries to promote ties between the two regions; and

(b) if so, the response of the ASEAN countries to this proposal?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

a) During the ASEAN-India Summit Meeting in Bali, Indonesia, on October 8, 2003, our Prime Minister had floated the idea to organize a Motor Car Rally with a view "to draw dramatic attention to our geographical contiguity" with the ASEAN countries. The Rally would obviously draw commercial interest in infrastructure development along the route, Tourism development and long-term economic cooperation in the region. It will also help to create public awareness about growing India-ASEAN relations as part of our 'Look East Policy'.

b) Prime Minister's idea has been welcomed by the ASEAN countries.