

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:430

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004

VISIT OF EAM ABROAD

Deshmukh Shri Subhash Sureshchandra;Rathod Shri Harisingh Nasaru

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the recently visited Indonesia, Thailand and Norway;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any agreements have been signed with these countries;
- (d) if so, the fields wherein such agreements were signed`
- (e) the details of discussions held and outcome thereof; and
- (f) the benefits likely to accrue to India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH)

- (a) to (f) A statement is placed on the Table of the House

Statement referred to in Parts (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 430 for answer on 25.08.2004

(a) & (b) External Affairs Minister visited Indonesia from 30th June to 2nd July 2004 to participate in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Meeting. EAM also accompanied the Prime Minister to Thailand for the first Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sector Technical and Economic Cooperation Summit (BIMSTEC) from 29-31 July 2004. EAM did not visit Norway.

(c) & (d) An MOU on cooperation on combating international terrorism between India and Indonesia was signed on the sidelines of the ARF meeting in Indonesia. MOUs were signed in Jakarta with Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam on setting up Entrepreneurship Development Centres in these countries.

(e) EAM had bilateral meetings with his counterparts on the sidelines of ARF meeting, including Indonesia, Russia, USA, European Union, China, Canada, Myanmar, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Mongolia, Vietnam and Laos. These meetings provided an opportunity to review bilateral cooperation and regional and global issues of mutual concern.

(f) The signing of an MOU between India and Indonesia on Combating International Terrorism has provided a legal framework to facilitate cooperation between the two countries to address security incidents and trans-national crimes. This will also result in sharing of intelligence information and cooperation between the law-enforcement agencies of the two countries. A Joint Working Group will be set up for effective implementation of the objectives of the Memorandum.