

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2213
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2006
MARITIME TIES WITH SOUTH EAST ASIAN REGION
Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to enhance maritime ties with the South East Asian Region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the efforts made by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c): The Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard have taken number of initiatives for enhancement of maritime ties with the countries in the South-East Asian Region, namely, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam and Singapore. The initiatives include regular discussions with the regional Navies for security of sea-lanes and other issues, coordinated patrols, exchange of information on the merchant traffic in the Indian Ocean, bilateral visits, port-calls by ships, training of officers and sailors from countries of the region in the professional schools of the Indian Navy, experience sharing in maritime matters, participation by the Indian Navy in multilateral exercises conducted by the South-East Asian Navies or those conducted in the South-East Asia, participation in multinational symposia, conferences and seminars etc.

India has also signed and ratified the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia.