

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5306
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010
SECURITY FACILITATION IN INDIAN OCEAN
Haque Shri Sk. Saidul

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to play the role of a security facilitator in the Indian Ocean region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to base permanently a couple of Sukhoi 30 MK Squadrons in Andaman & Nicobar command; and
- (d) if so, the reasons and details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

- (a) & (b) India's maritime interests in the Indian Ocean region, including the defence of island territories, offshore resources and assets and maritime trade routes, form an important input in our defence planning.
- (c) & (d) Decisions on deployment of assets are taken by Government on the basis of threat assessments, which is a continuous process.