

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3688
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2013
LOOK EAST POLICY
Pradhan Shri Nityananda

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of Look East Policy (LEP) and the action plan to give new dimensions to it;
- (b) the action plan to inter-connect ASEAN regions with India by road; and
- (c) the various initiatives taken by India to foster close relations with the ASEAN countries?

Answer

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

(a) India's Look East Policy, instituted since the early 1990s, is oriented towards deepening India's engagement with the countries of East and Southeast Asia. With the ASEAN, India commemorated 20 years of dialogue relations and 10 years of Summit level partnership at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi on December 20- 21, 2012. ASEAN Leaders and Prime Minister adopted a Vision Statement on the future ASEAN-India strategic partnership.

(b) An Inter-Ministerial Group on ASEAN Transport Connectivity, chaired by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has been constituted to further road connectivity with ASEAN.

(c) India has been cooperating with the ASEAN countries in political, security, economic, socio-cultural and development pillars to further integration between India and ASEAN at the levels of the Governments, institutions and people-to-people. In this, we are guided by the ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2010-15) to implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity.