

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2077
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009
BIMSTEC CONVENTION
Sule Supriya

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has any proposal of signing and ratification of Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Co-operation (BIMSTEC) convention on international cooperation in dealing with scourge of terrorism;
- (b) if so, the details of the issues included therein; and
- (c) the time by which the Government is likely to sign BIMSTEC?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

- (a) India proposed a BIMSTEC Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking. The Convention was adopted in October 2008 at New Delhi by the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism of BIMSTEC member States.
- (b) The Convention will provide a legal basis for cooperation among the law enforcement agencies of BIMSTEC Member States for combating international terrorism, transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In particular, member States will provide each other the widest possible measures of mutual assistance in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and suppression of such crimes.
- (c) The Cabinet has approved the signing and ratification of the Convention. It is proposed to sign the Convention at the first opportunity during the next high level meeting of BIMSTEC.