

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4390
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009
CONFERENCE OF EAS COUNTRIES
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India had participated in the Conference of EAS countries held recently and whether India was a special invitee;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any decision was taken to revive old Nalanda University in the Summit of 16 EAS countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS {SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

- (a) Yes. India participated in the 4th East Asian Summit (EAS) held in Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand on 25 October 2009. India is a member of EAS.
- (b) The EAS leaders exchanged views on regional and international issues such as global economic and financial crisis, climate change, terrorism etc. The Indian delegation to EAS was led by the Prime Minister. PM shared our vision of an Asian Economic Community that is based on an open and inclusive regional architecture. The EAS countries recognise the impact of India's socio-economic transformation on the reshaping of the global economic order and the opportunities this has for accelerating Asia's own growth.
- (c) & (d) The decision to revive the Nalanda University was taken at the EAS Summit held in Cebu in January 2007. In October 2009, a Joint Press Statement was issued upon conclusion of the EAS Summit, which, inter-alia, endorsed the establishment of the Nalanda University as a centre of excellence in education and international understanding.
- (e) The Government has initiated necessary steps to pass the Nalanda University Bill in the Parliament to establish the Nalanda University.