

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1124  
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2014  
DEFENCE COOPERATION WITH SAARC COUNTRIES  
Singh Shri Bhola

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether any defence cooperation is in existence with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries including Bhutan and Nepal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation has been assigned any role in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

- (a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Defence cooperation activities including joint military exercises, exchange of personnel, ships & aircraft and training exchanges etc are being pursued with many SAARC member countries including Bhutan and Nepal.
- (c) Yes, Madam.
- (d) The role of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) depends on the interest shown by the concerned country.