

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 18.11.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**PM'S RECENT FOREIGN VISITS .**

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SHRI MOHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of COALCOALCOALCOALEXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether recent visits of Prime Minister to South Korea, Vietnam and Japan has increased the possibilities of India having cordial foreign relations with South-East Asian countries and whether there is any possibility of getting the support of these countries in checking the attempts of China to increase tension in South Asian countries;
- (b) whether India proposes to take any steps to strengthen the relations with said countries and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether India is going to have mutual exchange in the field of science, technology and knowledge with these countries and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

- (a) The recent visits of Prime Minister to Republic of Korea, Vietnam and Japan have strengthened India's relations with these countries of East and South East Asia. India's relations with these countries are independent of relations with third countries.
- (b) India has consciously striven to strengthen relations with the said countries. India established a Strategic and Global Partnership with Japan in 2006 and elevated its relations with Republic of Korea to a Strategic Partnership in January 2010. With Vietnam, India established Strategic Partnership in 2003.
- (c) Cooperation in science and technology and knowledge is an integral part of India's overall cooperation and partnership with these countries. A Programme of Cooperation in the Field of Science and Technology for the Period 2010-12 has been signed with the Republic of Korea. Cooperation between India and Japan in this field is conducted under India-Japan Cooperative Science Programme. With Vietnam, exchanges take place under a bilateral Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology.