

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1616**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.12.2018

**INDO-PACIFIC COOPERATION**

1616. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is making efforts to boost Indo-Pacific Cooperation, finalising a pact on encrypted defence technologies, tourism, decision to make changes in the H1 B visa programme and development of military platforms; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) Government of India is engaged with all key partners in the Indo-Pacific and beyond to ensure peace, stability and security in the region.

On 06 September 2018, India and the U.S. signed a Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) which will enable exchange of information between the two sides in a secure manner.

India and the U.S. designated each other as Travel and Tourism Partner Countries for 2017 in accordance with the decision taken during the visit of Prime Minister to the U.S. in June 2016.

Government of India has closely engaged with the U.S. Administration and Congress on all issues relating to movement of Indian professionals, including issues pertaining to the H-1B visa programme.

India and the U.S. have committed to continue to encourage and prioritize defence co-production and co-development projects through the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative.

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