

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1658
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13th DECEMBER, 2021

COMMITMENT TOWARDS FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION

1658 SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

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

the efforts being made by Government to ensure the common maritime interests and commitment towards freedom of navigation?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

Government of India is committed to safeguarding maritime interests and strengthening security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) to ensure a favorable and positive maritime environment. India remains committed to promoting a free, open and rules-based order, rooted in international law and undaunted by coercion. India also supports freedom of navigation and over flight, and unimpeded commerce based on the principles of international law, reflected notably in the 'United Nations' Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982. As a State Party to the UNCLOS, India promotes utmost respect for the UNCLOS, which establishes the international legal order of the seas and oceans.

India develops its maritime cooperation with regional partners in consonance with the Government's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR). The steps taken include 'Mission based Deployments' of Indian Naval Ships and aircraft to enhance Maritime Domain Awareness, promote maritime security and address contingencies that may arise. India proactively engages with regional and extra regional maritime forces through multilateral exercises, joint surveillance, coordinated patrols etc. to promote maritime security in the region in an inclusive and cooperative manner. India also participated in regional frameworks such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), East Asia Summit (EAS) and ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) to promote maritime cooperation and exchanges in the region.
