

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.102
ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022

Mandate for officials by BIMSTEC

***102. Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agrees that Bay of Bengal Initiative on Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) must mandate officials to come up with measures such as automatic identification system (AIS) trackers, establishing a vessel registry system and publishing vessel lists to help identify illegal vessels, increasing monitoring, control and surveillance, establishing regional guidelines to deter and prevent IUU practices, improving joint regional patrols and outreach programmes targeted at fisherfolk to curtail unsustainable Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) in respect of Rajya Sabha Starred Question no. 102 for reply on 15.12.2022 regarding Mandate for Officials by BIMSTEC asked by Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla.

(a) to (c): The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization comprising India and six other member states (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand) who have come together to accelerate economic growth and social progress in the Bay of Bengal region through joint endeavours in a spirit of equality and partnership. BIMSTEC cooperation activities are therefore always undertaken with the consensus of all member states.

As the lead country for security related cooperation activities within BIMSTEC, India hosted the '1st Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Maritime Security Cooperation' in September this year where the development of a Plan of Action covering Maritime Domain Awareness, sustainable marine economic activities (Blue Economy) and Maritime Security Cooperation, was initiated. The planned activities will contribute to the tackling of the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing challenge in the Bay of Bengal.
