

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.109
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.11.2016**

BIMSTEC CONVENTION

109. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) **whether the member countries have decided to expedite the signing of the BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matter and for early ratification of the BIMSTEC Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organised Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking; 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) **Yes.**

(b) **The Indian Cabinet has approved signing and ratification of the BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters on 10th March 2016. The Leaders of BIMSTEC countries during the Goa Summit held on 16th October 2016, committed to expedite the signing of this Convention.**

In the context of BIMSTEC Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organised Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking, all Member Countries of BIMSTEC except Nepal and Bhutan have ratified the Convention. India ratified the Convention on 1st December, 2010. The Leaders of BIMSTEC countries during the Goa Summit held on 16th October 2016 committed to early ratification of this Convention.
