

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.799  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2018

RELATIONS WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES

799. SHRI HARI OM PANDAY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to rejuvenate its relations with ASEAN countries in near future;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi formally enunciated the Government's 'Act East Policy' at the ASEAN India and East Asia Summits in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 11-12 November, 2014. The Act East Policy aims to enhance India's multi-faceted engagement with its extended eastern neighbourhood and our relationship with ASEAN is the foundation of our Act East Policy.

India's relationship with ASEAN is robust. It has matured from a Sectoral Dialogue Partnership in 1992 to a full-fledged Dialogue Partnership in 1996, a Summit Level Partnership in 2002 and a Strategic Partnership in 2012. The relationship rests on three pillars: political-security, economic and socio-cultural. There are 30 annual institutional mechanisms for dialogue between ASEAN and India, including a Summit and seven Ministerial level dialogues.

In 2017, we commemorated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Dialogue Partnership. A number of events were held to celebrate this occasion. The grand culmination of these celebrations was the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit held on 25 January 2018 in New Delhi which was attended by the Heads of State / Governments of all ten ASEAN member states. The ten leaders were the Guests of Honour at the 69<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Parade on 26 January 2018, signifying the importance that we attach to our partnership with ASEAN.

The Delhi Declaration adopted at the end of the Commemorative Summit outlines our future vision for this partnership by stating that ASEAN and India agree to 'Further strengthen and deepen the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership for mutual benefit, across the whole spectrum of political-security, economic, socio-cultural and development cooperation.'

(c) Does not arise.

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