

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE  
**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.735**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2019

**INDO-FRENCH JOINT NAVAL EXERCISE**

735. DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:  
SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:  
DR. HEENA GAVIT:  
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:  
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:  
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE j{k k ea=h  
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently conducted first Indo-French joint naval exercise 'Varuna 19.1';
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the aims and objectives thereto and the expenditure involved therein;
- (c) the number of naval persons and naval ships who participated in the said joint naval exercise;
- (d) the details of the joint naval military exercises that are likely to be undertaken with other countries in the next three years and the likely gains for naval force as a result thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost naval cooperation with other countries?

**A N S W E R**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

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(SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)

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(a) to (e) : Yes, Sir. The latest edition of bilateral maritime exercise 'Varuna' between Indian and French Navy was held in May 2019. The exercise was conducted in two phases with the objective of conducting advanced exercise for a significant period at sea.

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The expenditure for the same was met out of overall revenue expenditure of the Indian Navy. Seven naval assets and their crew participated in the exercises. Exercises with friendly foreign countries are conducted by Indian Navy as per approved annual calendar of exercises with the aim of enhancing regional cooperation and inter-operability. Indian Navy has been engaging with friendly foreign countries in areas of bilateral/multilateral exercises, training and capacity building, hydrography and Human Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) as required.

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