

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1767**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

**NAVAL DRILL**

1767.SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has conducted naval drill with United States and other countries recently;
- (b) if so, the details of aims and objectives thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon;
- (c) the number of naval personnel and naval ships 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 to 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 STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

- (a): Yes, Sir.
- (b): The MALABAR exercise is being conducted annually since 1992. The last edition was conducted in November, 2022. The aim and objective of the exercise is to enhance Indian Navy's interoperability with other participating navies, improve skill and exchange best practises. Such exercises also provide impetus to better maritime security in the region in consonance with the Hon'ble PM's vision of 'SAGAR – Security And Growth for All in the Region'. The expenditure was incurred from the allocated budget of Indian Navy as it was part of regular deployment.
- (c): 2 Indian Navy ships and 01 P8I aircraft with appox. 500 Indian Navy personnel participated in the exercise.
- (d): The desired information is sensitive in nature and its disclosure is not in the interest of National Security.
- (e): The Government boosts naval cooperation with other foreign countries through structured interactions like Staff Talks, Empowered Steering Group Meetings, MoUs etc. in the field of Capacity Building, Maritime Domain Awareness, Trainings, Hydrography, Technical & Operational Assistance, Joint Patrols and other initiatives.

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