

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-4910
ANSWERED ON- 31/03/2023

CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES

†4910. SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL
SHRIMATI MALA RAJYA LAXMI SHAH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Government has taken any special initiative to strengthen India's relations with Buddhist countries and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is also taking policy measures for greater cultural exchange with ASEAN countries including Myanmar; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the efforts made in this regard during the last three years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(DR. RAJKUMAR RANJAN SINGH)

(a) The Government of India is actively engaged in strengthening India's relations with Buddhist countries in political, economic and socio-cultural dimensions through various measures including exchanges, development partnership, cultural promotion, academic collaboration and scholarships, capacity building, restoration and conservation of heritage sites.

(b & c) Cultural exchanges are an integral part of India's engagement with ASEAN countries. Our interactions include establishment of Cultural Centres, gifting of items of shared cultural heritage and collaboration on cultural research and documentation including digitisation of manuscripts. In the last three years, India has continued with these activities and has also signed Cultural Exchange Programs, organized theme based quizzes, exhibitions, conferences and festivals to enhance our cultural partnership with ASEAN countries.
