

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1053  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2022**

SUPPORT ON LAW OF THE SEA

**1053. SHRI NATARAJAN P.R.:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has supported United Nations(UN) on the law of the sea and on the principles of international law and reflected notably in United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea(UNCLOS) 1982;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of cooperation being maintained with the regional partners in consonance with the Government's vision on the security and growth for all in the region?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

**(a) & (b)** Yes. India ratified the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982 on 29 June 1995. Being a Party to the Convention, India's rights, duties and jurisdiction in the ocean affairs are governed by the provisions of UNCLOS. The convention establishes, with due regard for the sovereignty of all States, a legal order for the seas and oceans which facilitate international communication, and promotes the peaceful uses of the seas and oceans, the equitable and efficient utilization of their resources, the conservation of their living resources, and the study, protection and preservation of the marine environment.

**(c)** In line with India's vision of SAGAR- 'Security and Growth for All in the region', Government of India is committed to strengthening maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and beyond to ensure a favourable and positive maritime environment. India also participates in regional frameworks to promote maritime cooperation and exchanges in the region.

India is engaged with its partners in IOR in meeting their requirements in the area of capacity building and training needs. Indian experts are regularly deputed to countries like Mauritius and Seychelles for enhancing their capacities. India has also offered multi-pronged support to Sri Lanka in the last few months. Timely and effective Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) support is among the core elements of India's assistance profile in the IOR region. Under Mission SAGAR, Indian Naval Ship Kesari was deployed to Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles. INS Kesari travelled over 7,500 nautical miles over a period of 55 days, to deliver COVID-19 related

assistance in the form of essential medicines, food items and deployment of medical teams for assisting in COVID care management.

With our maritime neighbours in Africa, India has signed defence cooperation MOU with Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania. In 2019, India signed three MoUs with Mozambique on cooperation in hydrography, sharing of white shipping information and joint surveillance of Mozambican Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) aimed at fostering bilateral maritime security cooperation.

India is robustly engaging countries of Southeast Asia, East Asia, South Asia & Oceania. India has Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with a number of countries in the region including Australia, Indonesia and Vietnam. It has Enhanced Strategic Partnership with Malaysia, Special Strategic Partnership with Republic of Korea (ROK) and Japan, and Strategic Partnership with Singapore and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Apart from ASEAN, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and East Asia Summit (EAS), India has also been actively engaged with other regional fora such as Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Forum for India-Pacific Island Cooperation (FIPIC), all of which contribute to realization of India's Act East Policy.

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