

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1781  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2015**

**BILATERAL TIES WITH ASEAN**

†1781. **SHRI R. DHRUVA NARAYANA:  
SHRI NAGAR RODMAL:**

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

- (a) whether India is aiming at better and stronger bilateral ties with ASEAN countries and if so, the details of steps taken in this regard;**
- (b) whether several road projects connecting neighbouring as well as ASEAN countries are on the anvil and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the time by which the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project is likely to be completed and the States that are likely to be benefitted/effected thereby;**
- (d) whether the Government is also contemplating to support the initiative to create an economic federation with ASEAN including adoption of a single currency; and**
- (e) if so, the details in this regard?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]**

**(a) Yes. The India-ASEAN Strategic Partnership has acquired new momentum with the announcement of the “Act-East Policy” at the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit in 2014. The Government has in January 2015 set up a separate Indian Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta to strengthen engagement with ASEAN and ASEAN-centric processes. The ASEAN-India Agreements on Trade in Services and Investment have entered into force on 1 July 2015, completing the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area, and will give a further boost to bilateral trade and investment ties. An ASEAN-India Plan of Action for the period 2016-20 has also been adopted at the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting in August 2015, identifying concrete initiatives and areas of cooperation along the politico-security, economic and socio-cultural pillars. Prime Minister's participation in the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Summit on 21 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur has reinforced India's multi-faceted engagement with ASEAN countries.**

**(b) Yes. The Government is assisting in the construction of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway (road in Kalewa-Yargi section and 69 bridges on Tamu-Kalewa section), as well as the road component of the Kaladan Multi- Modal Transit Transport Project in Myanmar.**

**(c) The waterway and road components of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project are scheduled to be completed by mid-2016 and mid-2019 respectively. The project will benefit the North-Eastern states of India.**

**(d) No.**

**(e) Does not arise.**

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