

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 15  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2016

**APEC MEMBERSHIP**

**\*15. SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI):**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- (a) the membership status of India in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum at present;
- (b) whether last year's Indo-US joint declaration has merely noted India's interest in APEC and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the United States has invited India to participate in APEC as an observer;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken or being taken by the Government to seek membership of APEC; and
- (e) the justification of the Government of India for not joining the APEC as a full member despite having an 'Act East Policy' as a foreign relations priority?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण) (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

a) to e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 15 FOR ANSWER ON 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2016  
REGARDING “APEC MEMBERSHIP ”**

- (a) India had applied for membership of APEC in 1991 on the basis of its geographic location, potential size of the economy and degree of trade interaction with the Asia-Pacific. However, at the 5<sup>th</sup> APEC Leaders' meeting in Vancouver in 1997, a decision was taken to place a 10 year moratorium on expanding membership which continues informally till date.
- (b) & (c) The US-India Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region issued on 25 January 2015 states that “as part of these efforts, the United States welcomes India’s interest in joining the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, as the Indian economy is a dynamic part of the Asian economy.”
- (d) & (e) India is engaging with APEC member countries to develop a consensus on lifting the informal moratorium on accepting new members and to engage for India’s candidature for membership of APEC.

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