

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2300  
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003  
RAIL LINK BETWEEN INDIA AND SOUTH EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES  
BASUDEB ACHARIA

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

(a) whether there has been a discussion between India and the South East Asian countries on laying a rail link from New Delhi to South East Asian Countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a) & (b) At the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) initiative, held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 20th June 2003, a proposal was made that MGC should study the feasibility of a rail link between New Delhi and Hanoi. India offered to depute a technical team to carry out a preliminary study in this regard, which was accepted by MGC countries. Government will take further action in this matter with regard to the feasibility study in consultation with the other MGC member countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam).