

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1912  
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2000  
CHANGE IN FORCE PROFILE OF NAVY  
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**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Indian Navy plans to exercise a Kilo class submarine and a maritime reconnaissance aircraft in the South China Sea during the current year;
- (b) if so, whether this Naval operation was presented during the Naval Commanders' Conference in the second week of April, 2000;
- (c) if so, whether the Indian Navy is toying with the idea of changing its force profile;
- (d) if so, whether the Indian Navy is likely to be in the forefront of defence diplomacy in order to promote goodwill with the navies in the region; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): Naval exercises in the South China Sea involving a Kilo class submarine and a maritime reconnaissance aircraft have not been planned for this year. However, a goodwill visit by the Naval ships, including a submarine, to some countries of South East Asia and East Asia is planned in September/October, 2000 during which Passage Exercises with the host Navies are proposed to be conducted. No maritime aircraft is scheduled to take part in these exercises.

The Naval Commanders were apprised of the forthcoming goodwill visit programme and the Passage Exercises that would be conducted with the host Navies, during the Commanders' Conference, 2000.

The Navy do not envisage that these visits will require any change in its force profile. Goodwill visits by the Indian Naval ships to friendly foreign countries is a regular feature to promote navy to navy cooperation with friendly foreign countries.