

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:339

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2005

JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE WITH USA AT KALAIKUNDA

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar;Singh Shri Mohan;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a joint military exercise between Indian and United States air forces was held at Kalaikunda in West Bengal on November 7, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there had been protests against this joint military exercise; and
- (d) if so, on what grounds and the Government's reaction thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A bilateral exercise between Indian Air Force (IAF) and United States Air Force (USAF) with participation of fighter aircraft from both the sides and an Airborne Warning & Air Control System (AWACS) aircraft from USAF side was conducted at Kalaikunda from 7th November 2005 to 19th November 2005.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. There were some peaceful protest against this Exercise. However, the Exercise continued as per the schedule under Indo-US Defence Cooperation Programme.