

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1273
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2006
MILITARY TIES WITH OMAN
Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has expressed its keenness to improve the military ties with Oman;
- (b) if so, whether the talks have been held with them on military issues; and
- (c) if so, the details of issues discussed and decision arrived at?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (c): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1273 FOR ANSWER ON 3.8.2006

The ties between India and Sultanate of Oman are historic and are marked by friendship and goodwill. Bilateral ties have been strengthened considerably in the recent times and the relationship is multifaceted. An important aspect of the relationship is defence cooperation, which is signified by exchange of high level visits, joint exercises between the Navies of the two countries and ship visits. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on military cooperation between India and Oman has been signed envisaging the areas of future defence cooperation. The India-Oman Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC) which was constituted under the provisions of the MOU held its first meeting in India on 16.5.2006. During the meeting, both sides discussed issues of mutual interest.