

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:135

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007

ASEAN SUMMIT

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister took part in the `ASEAN` (Association of South East Asian Nations) Summit held recently;
- (b) if so, the details of issues discussed therein;
- (c) whether any trade agreements were also signed on the occasion;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the benefits likely to be accrued to India as a result of these agreements; and
- (e) the action plan of the Government to increase economic cooperation with the ASEAN countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (e) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.135 REGARDING `ASEAN SUMMIT` FOR ANSWER ON 07.03.2007

(a) Yes.

(b) At the India-ASEAN Summit held on January 14, 2007 in Cebu, Philippines, PM exchanged views with ASEAN leaders to further strengthen India's ties with the South East Asian nations, through greater economic interactions, enhanced commercial linkages and enlarging people-to-people contacts, by way of cultural exchange, tourism etc.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Economic cooperation with ASEAN countries is being strengthened through several measures, including efforts aimed at

(i) finalization of the ASEAN-India FTA;

(ii) holding of a dialogue between ASEAN and India on an open skies policy;

(iii) launching of mutually agreed special tourism campaigns in India and ASEAN countries, to enhance people-to-people contact and facilitate tourist flow in both directions; and

(iv) encouraging setting up of joint flagship projects that would capitalize on the complementary strengths of India and ASEAN.