

Equipments, Pharmaceuticals etc. Similarly Chinese side has been asking for Market Economy Status (MES), to improve operation and investment environment for Chinese enterprises in India, Import of Chinese Dairy Products and Cooked Poultry etc. All these issues were discussed during the 8th Session of India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations, Trade, Science and Technology (JEG) held on 19th January, 2010 in Beijing.

Malabar class naval exercises

*37. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Malabar class Naval exercises taken place so far, year-wise and location-wise details thereof;
- (b) which countries participated in these exercises;
- (c) what is the purpose of these exercises;
- (d) whether India soldiers get to handle the naval and strategic assets of participating navies; and
- (e) if not, what is the agreed protocol for such exercises?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (e) Twelve exercises of MALABAR series have so far been conducted. Out of 12 exercises, 10 exercises have been held off Indian Coast and 2 in the Pacific. The exercises were held in the years 1992, 1995, 1996, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 (twice), 2008 and 2009.

Basically, it is an Indian Navy-US Navy bilateral exercise. However, in a few isolated cases, certain other navies have also participated. Majority of these exercises were held in Indian waters. The objectives of conducting such exercises is to promote mutual cooperation and gain from the experience of other navies, especially in the field of advance technology available with them. It also facilitates inter-operability in times of need in situations like disaster management etc. Such exercises offer an opportunity to gain operational skills, exchange experiences and learn the best practices of other navies.

Deaths due to occupational diseases and accidents

*38. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government has the correct statistics about the number of deaths due to occupational diseases and accidents, if so, the details thereof, State-wise and industry-wise; and
- (b) how many industries have been punished for not maintaining the health and safety standards in the projects?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE) : (a) The statistics on the number of deaths due to occupational diseases and accidents is based on the information received from the State Governments. As per the available information, the fatal and non