

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2016
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2021

PARTICIPATION WITH BIMSTEC ALLIANCE

2016. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of India's participation with reference to the North-Eastern Region for the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) alliance;
- (b) the status of plans that have been made to reassess the progress of the India Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project under BIMSTEC, if any; and
- (c) the direct impact of the BIMSTEC's cross-country alliance on Government's 'Act East Policy' under the country's proposed foreign policy, if any?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[DR RAJKUMAR RANJAN SINGH]

- (a) India is actively participating in all cooperation programs and activities of BIMSTEC. Given its geographical location, North Eastern Region stands to derive significant benefit from this cooperation.
- (b) Both projects are part of the finalized BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity. However, there are no plans to reassess the Projects under BIMSTEC.
- (c) BIMSTEC serves as a vehicle for regional engagement among its member countries in South and South-East Asia. It is complementary to Government's Act East Policy, which is aimed at promoting economic cooperation, cultural ties and developing strategic relationships with countries in the Indo-Pacific region through continuous engagement at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, thereby providing enhanced connectivity in its broadest sense, including political, economic, cultural and people-people relations. Act East Policy is a major pillar of India's foreign policy with the objective of benefiting all the States of India, especially those in Eastern India and North Eastern India.
