

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-860**  
ANSWERED ON- 09/02/2023

**10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE BIMSTEC JOINT WORKING GROUP**

860. SMT. SHANTA CHHETRI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether BIMSTEC Members States, i.e, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand have inked MoUs;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the country has benefited from such MoUs in different fields, so far; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SMT. MEENAKSHI LEKHI)

(a to d) Counter Terrorism is one of the priority sectors of BIMSTEC cooperation since the first BIMSTEC Summit in 2004. Two documents have been signed in the counter terrorism and transnational crime domain so far, namely :

(i) The BIMSTEC Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organised Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking – signed in December 2009 in Myanmar and entered into force on 16 March 2021; and

(ii) The BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters – signed during the 5<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit in Colombo on 30 March 2022. This Convention will come into force upon deposition of instrument of ratification by all Member States of BIMSTEC. So far, India has deposited the instrument of ratification in respect of this Convention.

The above mentioned Conventions will enable BIMSTEC Member States to extend mutual assistance in prevention, investigation, prosecution and suppression of international terrorism, transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

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