GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-164
ANSWERED ON-04.12.2014

Chinese objection on Indias presence in South China sea

164 . Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda

(a) whether it is a fact that China has raised strong objections to India's presence in the South China sea;
(b) the action taken by Government to counter Chinese objections and safeguard Indian interests in the region; and
(c) whether there would be any reflection of this move on Indo-China relations?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 164 REGARDING "CHINESE OBJECTION ON INDIA'S PRESENCE IN SOUTH CHINA SEA" FOR ANSWER ON 04.12.2014

(a) & (b) China, which is a party to the South China Sea dispute, has raised its concerns on India's hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation projects in the South China Sea off the coast of Vietnam. Government has clearly conveyed that such activity by Indian companies is purely commercial in nature. India's position on South China Sea issue is consistent and has been reiterated bilaterally and in multilateral fora on several occasions. India supports freedom of navigation in international waters while maintaining that sovereignty issues must be resolved peacefully by the countries which are parties to the dispute in accordance with accepted principles of international law, including the United Nations' Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982.

(c) During the recent State visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping, both sides agreed to build a Closer Developmental Partnership which would form a core component of the Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. A closer relationship between India and China will be conducive not only to the common interests of both sides, but also to stability and prosperity of the region and the world.

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