

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-209
ANSWERED ON-04.08.2016

Rights of China over South China Sea

209 . Shri P.L. Punia

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to Permanent Court of Arbitration's order, China has no rights over South China Sea and China remains opposed to said order, the details thereof; and

(b) whether an official website of China has claimed India to be a supporter of China on the issue, if so, whether India is supporting China, if not, Government's reaction thereto, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 209 REGARDING "RIGHTS OF CHINA OVER SOUTH CHINA SEA" FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2016

(a) The Tribunal constituted under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in the arbitration instituted by the Republic of the Philippines against the People's Republic of China delivered its award on July 12, 2016. Government has seen the statement released by China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs declaring that China neither accepts nor recognizes the award.

(b) Government has seen such a report. Government's position on this issue and the ruling is clear. The authority of Annex VII Tribunal and its award is recognized in Part XV of the UNCLOS itself. India's own record in this regard is well known. India supports freedom of navigation and over flight, and unimpeded commerce, based on the principles of international law, as reflected notably in the UNCLOS. India believes that States should resolve disputes through peaceful means without threat or use of force and exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that could complicate or escalate disputes affecting peace and stability. As a State Party to the UNCLOS, India urges all parties to show utmost respect for the UNCLOS, which establishes the international legal order of the seas and oceans.