

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1445**  
**ANSWERED ON-08.03.2018**

Military bases of China after Doklam issue

1445 Smt. Chhaya Verma

Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad  
Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Chinese army is still standing firm at a certain distance in Doklam even after the Doklam impasse is over and after this deadlock China is showing aggression in taking up the border issues;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that China is setting up military bases in sea in coordination with many countries which is seemingly its strategy to surround India; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) Since the disengagement of Indian and Chinese border personnel in the Doklam area on 28 August 2017, there have been no new developments at the face-off site and its vicinity. The status quo prevails in this area.

India and China have appointed a Special Representative (SR) each to explore the framework for a boundary settlement from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship. There have been twenty meetings of SRs so far, the last one being in New Delhi on 22 December 2017. The two sides are committed to seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question through dialogue and peaceful negotiations. The two sides agree that peace and tranquility in the border areas is an essential pre-requisite for the smooth development of India-China relations.

(b) & (c) Government is aware of China's stated objective of becoming a 'maritime power'. As part of this strategy, China is developing support bases, ports and other infrastructure facilities in the littoral countries in the Indian Ocean region, including in the vicinity of India's maritime boundary.

India and China have, on several occasions, reiterated that, as large neighbours following independent foreign policies, the relationships pursued by India and China with other countries must not become a source of concern for each other. Both countries have agreed to display mutual respect and sensitivity to each other's concerns and aspirations.

Under its "Neighbourhood First" policy, Government is committed to developing friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all its neighbours. India is an active economic partner of its neighbours and is involved in various development projects in these countries. India also has extensive ties with neighbouring countries in education, culture, trade and investments as well as defence and security cooperation. India's relations with other countries stand on their own footing and are independent of the relations of those countries with third countries.

01/06/2019

Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.