

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-966**  
**ANSWERED ON-05.03.2018**  
Chinese military activity in Pakistan

966 . Shri K.C. Ramamurthy

- (a) the opinion of the Ministry on the report of Pentagon, that China is setting up a military base in Pakistan;
- (b) whether the Ministry is also aware of the fact that China has sent nuclear submarines to Karachi in May last year;
- (c) whether it is a fact that 'One Road One Belt' (OROB) and 'String of Pearls' are also part of China's grand objective to encircle India strategically; and
- (d) if so, what counter plans does the Ministry have to protect the country?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE

(a) to (d): Government has seen media reports in this regard and keeps a constant watch on such developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it. Government is aware of China's stated objective of becoming a 'maritime power'. As part of this strategy, China is developing ports and other infrastructure facilities in the littoral countries in the Indian Ocean region, including in the vicinity of India's maritime boundary.

Government is also aware that under its 'Belt and Road Initiative', China is undertaking projects for development of infrastructure facilities in several countries in the region.

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

