

(d) to (f) Sovereignty over areas of the South China Sea is disputed between many countries in the region. India is not a party to this dispute. As two developing countries with growing energy needs, India and Vietnam have been cooperating in the oil and gas industry to enhance our energy security. During Prime Minister's meeting with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in Bali in November 2011, China, which is a party to the South China Sea dispute, raised its concerns on India's hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation projects in the South China Sea off the coast of Vietnam. It was clearly conveyed to the Chinese side that such activity by Indian companies in the South China Sea is commercial in nature and that sovereignty issues must be resolved peacefully by the countries which are parties to the dispute in accordance with international law and practice.

**Rail connection between Chabahar
port and Hajigak**

1756. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to construct a 900 km. Railway Line that would connect Chabahar Port in Iran to Hajigak Region of Afghanistan; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):
(a) and (b) Government has been holding discussions with the Government of Iran on the possibility of upgradation of the Chabahar Port and rail connectivity in the region.

Deployment of nuclear missiles by China

1757. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY:

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that China is posing a threat to India's security by deploying nuclear missiles close to Sino-India border;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps/measures taken/being taken by Government to build strong logistics on the frontier?