

there are a few areas along the border where India and China have different perceptions of the LAC including territory in Arunachal Pradesh. Both sides patrols upto their respective perceptions of the LAC due to perceived differences in alignment of LAC, The areas along the LAC are kept under constant surveillance by regular patrolling by troops and other means. Specific incidents of transgressions due to differences in the perception of LAC are taken up with the Chinese side through established mechanism such as Hot Lines, Flag Meetings, Border personnel Meetings and normal diplomatic channels.

Effect of China's enhanced supremacy in South-China sea

†3609. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that China is trying to enhance its supremacy in the South-China sea to undermine India's position in Indian ocean;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that China wants to extend its area upto Malacca strait by capturing Paracel and Spratly Islands situated in this sea; and
- (c) if so, its likely effect on Indian Navy's capability?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (c) China has been staking claim to most of the South-China sea and has disputes with its neighbours on the control of Paracel and Spratly Islands crucial for determination of the exclusive economic zone of the littoral states. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments concerning our national security and commercial interests and takes all necessary measures to safeguard them in accordance with the prevailing security situations and strategic considerations.

Conclusion of consultations on appointment of CDS

3610. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has concluded its consultations on the issue of appointment of a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to deliver single-point military advice; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the decision of Government on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The consultations are still ongoing. A decision will be taken after the process of consultation is completed.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.