

Resolving of objection raised by foreign nations

4540. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether alleged dispute between India and China has been resolved satisfactorily as China has been raising objections when India signed an oil exploration agreement with Vietnam, or when a 'Milan' naval sea exercise was done during 2009; and

(b) whether there are other countries who have raised maritime disputes, which can threaten our security when India engages itself in activities like oil explorations either of its own or in collaboration with other countries, or undertakes routine multi-nation sea exercises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) China, which is a party to the South China Sea dispute, has raised its concerns on India's hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation projects in the South China Sea off the coast of Vietnam, Government has clearly conveyed that such activity by Indian companies is purely commercial in nature and that the dispute must be resolved peacefully by the countries concerned. China has not raised any concerns in regard to the Milan naval exercises.

(b) No.

Concern over Chinese development

†4541. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's growing concerns are but natural as a result of military build up together with adoption of assertive policy following growth in economic sector by neighbouring country China;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government would take diplomatic steps at international level to neutralise this pressure from China; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Government pays close attention to China's military modernization program as well as its infrastructure development projects in the border regions opposite India in the Tibet and Xinjiang Autonomous Regions. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

(c) and (d) India and China have established a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership based on the principles of Panchsheel, equality and mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns and aspirations. During his meeting with PM on the sidelines of BRICS Summit in March 2012, Chinese President Hu Jintao noted that China is firmly committed to seeking friendship with India and is willing to work with India to make greater contribution to peace, stability and development of Asia and the World. India continues to actively pursue its relations with all major powers so as to provide itself diplomatic space and preserve the national interest.

Maintenance of temples in SAARC countries

4542. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken up the issue of maintenance and construction of temples of historical and archaeological importance in SAARC countries;

(b) the details of such temples, country-wise;

(c) the present status of maintenance and work executed in such temples; and

(d) the details of funds allocated for such temples in last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) The Government has no plan to allocate funds for construction and maintenance of temples in SAARC countries.

(c) and (d) However, in Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, Indian embassies have been providing assistance for construction/expansion/renovation of temple related Structures of religious cultural and historical significance. Project-wise detail is at Statement (*See below*). There are no SAARC mandated activities for maintenance and construction of temples in SAARC countries.