

- (b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) India is not a party to the dispute in the South China Sea.

- (b) Does not arise.

#### **Building of bridges by ITEC**

3117. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme has completed its eventful 50 years in building bridges with more than 160 developing countries across the world;

(b) whether this flagship programme launched in 1964 has so far provided training and motivation to a large number of participants from third world countries in skill development, entrepreneurship, IT and Food Security projects; and

(c) whether Government would like to set up other centres like the Barefoot College successfully running at Tilonia, Rajasthan as a mother training centre for rural and community development volunteers from all over the third world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme is completing its 50 years on 15 September, 2014. ITEC has helped in building close cooperation with developing partner countries across the world. Currently, there are 161 countries participating under various capacity building programmes.

(b) Yes, a large number of participants from developing countries have attended ITEC training programmes in India in diverse areas. ITEC has helped in capacity building, skill development, transfer of technology and sharing of experiences with the partner countries.

- (c) There is currently no such proposal under consideration.

#### **Killing of Tamils in Sri Lanka**

3118. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any action for the killing of ethnic Tamil civilians in Sri Lanka in accordance with the Resolution passed by the Tamil Nadu State Assembly in 2011 ;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to respect the sentiments of people of Tamil Nadu and the United Nations response in this issue;