

- (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;

(c) the outcome of India's efforts in the last three years for the displaced Tamils and the orphaned kith and kin of people killed in the ethnic genocide in Sri Lanka in 2009; and

(d) the details of the economic and logistic support provided by India to Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) to (d) Government has consistently called upon Sri Lanka during bilateral discussions and in the international fora to fulfill its commitments made to the international community on effective and timely implementation of all the constructive recommendations contained in its Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) Report including those pertaining to missing persons, detainees, reduction of 'high security zones', return of private lands by the military and withdrawal of security forces from the civilian domain in the Northern Province. Government remains engaged with Government of Sri Lanka to take forward the process of reconciliation and, in the spirit of partnership, encourage them to take forward the dialogue with the elected representatives of the Sri Lankan Tamils. Issues regarding the on-going reconciliation process in Sri Lanka were discussed during the recent bilateral meetings between PM and President of Sri Lanka in New Delhi on 27 May, 2014 and EAM and External Affairs Minister of Sri Lanka in New Delhi on 11 July, 2014.

Since the end of conflict in Sri Lanka, the focus of Government has been on the welfare and well being of the Tamils citizens of Sri Lanka. Their resettlement and rehabilitation have been of the highest and most immediate priority. Government has implemented and continues to implement a wide range of projects covering assistance projects for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the areas of housing, de-mining, education, connectivity, livelihood restoration, economic revival, etc. Due to Government's engagement with the Government of Sri Lanka on reconstruction and other issues, a modicum of normalcy is returning to the Tamil areas in Sri Lanka.

Chinese project in neighbouring countries

3119. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that China is undertaking developmental projects in our neighbouring countries and building roads, rails and huge infrastructure, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes to counter the Chinese influence in our neighbouring countries and ensure more presence of Indian companies to participate in building infrastructure and required other needs; and

(c) whether Government has assessed our security scenario *vis-a-vis* developmental activities taken up by China in such countries?