

Disputes in South China Sea

2100. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is in agreement with the US or the Chinese stand regarding disputes in the South China Sea; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) and (b) India's position on South China Sea is consistent and has been articulated on several occasions in the past. India attaches importance to freedom of navigation, overflight and unimpeded lawful commerce in the international waters in accordance with international laws, notably the United Nations' Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982. India stands for the peaceful resolution of disputes, including through respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force, and in accordance with international laws. India stands ready to work with international partners to maintain and promote peace, stability and development in the Indo-Pacific region.

Grants for academic research

2101. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total grants provided to academic research during the last five years; and
- (b) the organisations through which it was provided?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (b) The Government is continuously working to promote Higher Education and academic research in the country. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that it has different schemes to provide assistances for research activities and development of innovative methods. The details of total funds sanctioned, schemes-wise, during the last five years (2014-15 to 2018-19) are tabulated below: