

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1674  
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002  
KASHMIR ISSUE  
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether China has described the Kashmir as a core issue in Indo-Pak relations as reported in the `Hindustan Times` dated December 25, 2001;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have examined it;
- (c) whether the Government have taken up the issue with the China; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of China thereto?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

- (a) Government has seen the report in Hindustan Times of 25th December, 2001.
- (b)-(d): Chinese Premier Mr. Zhu Rongji visited India from 13-18 January, 2002. With regard to the dispute between India and Pakistan, Premier Zhu said that China would like it to be resolved through negotiations and consultations by peaceful means between the two countries.