

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5716
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2011
CONSTRUCTION WORK IN LEH
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are reports that routine construction work of schools, dispensaries, etc., in Demchuk area of Ladakh have been held in abeyance/stopped by issuing formal orders by the State Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether China continues to construct and fortify their own defences and carry on civil related activities opposite Demchuk in their own territory;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether stoppage of construction activity is affecting the lives and livelihood of the locals of Demchuk;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which life may return to normal in Demchuk and construction of schools, dispensaries, hospitals, etc. is restarted;
- (g) whether the Government has taken up this issue with the Chinese Government; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) to (h) A civilian road construction project in Ladakh was being implemented under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in 2009. Such construction in the proximity of the International Boundary (IB)/Line of Actual Control (LAC) cannot be undertaken without approvals from the Central Government. In the absence of such approvals, work on the MGNREGA road in Ladakh was halted. Government's position that Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India has been clearly conveyed to the Chinese Government, at the highest level, on several occasions. Government keeps a watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.