

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:434

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2011

INDO-CHINA DISPUTE

Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether China has objected to Indias' exploration projects in South China Sea off the coast of Vietnam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the estimated loss to the country as a result thereof;
- (d) whether any steps have been taken to settle dispute;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) to (f) Sovereignty over areas of the South China Sea is disputed between many countries in the region. India is not a party to this dispute. As two developing countries with growing energy needs, India and Vietnam have been cooperating in the oil and gas industry to enhance our energy security. China, which is a party to the South China Sea dispute, has raised its concerns on India's hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation projects in the South China Sea off the coast of Vietnam. Government has clearly conveyed that such activity by Indian companies is purely commercial in nature and that sovereignty issues must be resolved peacefully by the countries which are parties to the dispute in accordance with international law and practice.