

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2789
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011
SOUTH CHINA SEA EXPLORATION
Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidents of warning India by China on South China Sea exploration projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the reaction of the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the present status therein?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) to (d): As per information received from the Ministry of External Affairs, 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 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.