

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6478
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2012
INDIA CHINA FRIENDSHIP YEAR
Dhanaplan Shri K. P.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 2012 has been declared as the year of India-China friendship and cooperation; and
- (b) if so, the initiatives taken/proposed to be taken by both the countries to boost effective exchanges in various fields?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes. During the visit of the President of the People's Republic of China Hu Jintao to New Delhi in March 2012, the year 2012 was designated as the "Year of India-China Friendship and Cooperation". The two sides have planned a host of activities throughout the year to commemorate the Year of Friendship and Cooperation which will further expand and enhance the relationship including exchange of cultural troupes, lectures and talks by entrepreneurs, media forum, Indian expedition to Mt Everest from the Chinese side and further promotion of state/provincial level cooperation between the two countries.