

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:317  
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2012  
EXPLORATION IN SOUTH CHINA SEA  
Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware that China has put up a Vietnamese petroleum block under exploration by an Indian oil firm for global bidding;
- (b) if so, whether the said exploration block is under the custody of India as per Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Vietnam and India;
- (c) if so, whether China is deliberately creating problems in the South China Sea; and
- (d) the remedial steps Government proposes to take in this regard with China?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. Singh)

(a) to (d): ONGC Videsh Limited(OVL), in collaboration with Vietnamese companies, has been engaged in exploration activity in the South China Sea since 1988. China, which is a party to the South China Sea dispute, has raised its concerns on India's hydrocarbon exploration and exploration 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 the dispute must be resolved peacefully by the countries concerned.