

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4563
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2012
FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO CHINA
Patil Shri C. R.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Chinese Foreign Minister in a recent meeting in China with our External Affairs Minister raised the issue to open a fourth Mission in India possibly in Chennai to further expand growing trade and business ties between the two countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Indian Government thereto;
- (c) whether China has also expressed interest in creating Sister City ties with Indian cities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) India and China are discussing the possibility of opening additional Consulates General in each other's country.
- (c) & (d) During the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister to India in March 2012, it was agreed that "to promote provincial and local-level cooperation between the two countries, the External Affairs Ministry of India and the China International Friendship Cities Association would conclude an umbrella agreement."