

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4286

ANSWERED ON:19.12.2012

SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTE

Hazari Shri Maheshwar ;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Upadhyay Seema;Vardhan Shri Harsh;Verma Smt. Usha

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether China has recently reiterated its territorial claims in South China Sea;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the position taken by India in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Sovereignty over areas of the South China Sea is disputed between many countries in the region including China. India is not a party to this dispute and believes it must be resolved peacefully by the countries concerned. India has, on several occasions, reiterated its position that it supports freedom of navigation and right of passage in accordance with accepted principles of international law and practice. These principles should be respected by all.