

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3755
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012
ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY IN AKSAI CHIN
Viswanathan Shri P.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the establishment of astronomical observatory in Aksai Chin with the help of Japan and South Korea;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the security of our country;
- (c) whether it is a counter move of China against our oil exploration in South China Sea;
- (d) if so, whether the Government will pursue the oil exploration inspite of Chinese opposition; and
- (e) what steps are being taken by the Government with the members of the East Asia Core Observation Association (EACOA) in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (e): Government has seen newspaper reports to this effect. The Astronomical Observatory is apparently coming up at Shiquanhe which is located in the People's Republic of China.

Government is closely watching all activities of China and is fully seized of the security needs of the country. Necessary measures have been initiated to ensure the national security and economic interests of the country.