

(d) to (f) Sovereignty over areas of the South China Sea is disputed between many countries in the region. India is not a party to this dispute. As two developing countries with growing energy needs, India and Vietnam have been cooperating in the oil and gas industry to enhance our energy security. During Prime Minister's meeting with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in Bali in November 2011, China, which is a party to the South China Sea dispute, raised its concerns on India's hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation projects in the South China Sea off the coast of Vietnam. It was clearly conveyed to the Chinese side that such activity by Indian companies in the South China Sea is commercial in nature and that sovereignty issues must be resolved peacefully by the countries which are parties to the dispute in accordance with international law and practice.

**Rail connection between Chabahar
port and Hajigak**

1756. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to construct a 900 km. Railway Line that would connect Chabahar Port in Iran to Hajigak Region of Afghanistan; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):
(a) and (b) Government has been holding discussions with the Government of Iran on the possibility of upgradation of the Chabahar Port and rail connectivity in the region.

Deployment of nuclear missiles by China

1757. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY:

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that China is posing a threat to India's security by deploying nuclear missiles close to Sino-India border;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps/measures taken/being taken by Government to build strong logistics on the frontier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):
(a) to (c) Government pays close attention to China's military modernization programme as well as its infrastructure development projects in the border regions opposite India in the Tibet and Xinjiang Autonomous Regions. Since 1993, the two Governments have maintained peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the India-China border areas. The two sides have reiterated their commitment to this goal on many occasions. Government is giving careful and special attention to the development of the border areas opposite China, in order to meet our strategic and security requirements and also to facilitate the economic development of these areas. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Companies exploiting sentiments of haj pilgrims

†1758. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the name of Haj, many companies have been exploiting the interests and emotions of Haj pilgrims;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has issued any guidelines to make Haj pilgrimage more transparent; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):
(a) Government is not aware of any such exploitation. Whenever any complaint is received in this regard, the Government will take appropriate action.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) and (d) It is the constant endeavour of Government to conduct the Haj operations in an efficient and transparent manner. Improvements are incorporated on the basis of experience acquired in successive Haj operations with a view to provide the pilgrims with better services in each ensuing Haj pilgrimage.

Opening of PSKs

1759. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.