

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1536  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.12.2017**

**CHINA ENCIRCLING INDIA**

**†1536. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:  
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:**

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether China has been constantly neglecting the interests of India and has been adopting the policy of covering string of pearls along Indian seashore and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (b) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]**

**(a) & (b) Government is aware of China's stated objective of becoming a 'maritime power'. As part of this strategy, China is developing ports and other infrastructure facilities in the littoral countries in the Indian Ocean region, including in the vicinity of India's maritime boundary.**

**India and China have, on several occasions, reiterated that, as large neighbours following independent foreign policies, the relationships pursued by India and China with other countries must not become a source of concern for each other. Both countries have agreed to display mutual respect and sensitivity to each other's concerns and aspirations.**

**Under its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, Government is committed to developing friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all its neighbours. India is an active economic partner of its neighbours and is involved in various development projects in these countries. India also has extensive ties with neighbouring countries in education, culture, trade and investments as well as defence and security cooperation. India's relations with other countries stand on their own footing and are independent of the relations of those countries with third countries.**

**Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.**

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