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Title: Naval power build up by China beyond the Chinese coast.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam Speaker, I rise to raise a very important matter of urgent public interest.

As part of a new strategy called 'Far East Defence', the Chinese Military is seeking to project its naval powers well beyond the Chinese Coast from the oil ports of the West Asia to the ship lanes of the Pacific. The speed with which China is building long range capabilities is a strategy which is a sharp break from the traditional narrower doctrine of preparing for war over the self-governing Island of Taiwan or defending the Chinese Coast. Chinese Admirals say that they want warships to escort commercial vessels that are crucial to their country's economy from as far as the Persian Gulf across the Indian Ocean to the Strait of Malacca to help secure Chinese interests in the resource-rich South and East Chinese seas. It no longer is content to trust the security of sea lanes. Its definition of its own core interests has expanded along with economic clout. Since December, 2008, China has maintained three ships in the Gulf of Aden. In late March, two Chinese warships docked in Abu Dhabi. For the first time, the modern Chinese Navy made a port visit in the Middle East. Seeing this, other countries have begun responding to Chinese rising naval ambition. South East Asian nations like Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore have been quietly acquiring more submarines, missiles and other weapons in response. What is our response? We have a large coastline exposed in the East and the West. When the US has placed Chinese underwater submarine base in Hainan Island under close surveillance, what are we doing? We cannot be sitting ducks in between these two nations.

I would demand from the Government an appropriate answer to this. I would like to know what strategic steps have been taken to protect our coast, our sea line and our ships. Are we playing an important role in the Indian Ocean or just playing second fiddle?