

**France**

France Foreign Minister, Mr. Michel Barnier visited India from 27-28 October, 2004. No Agreement was signed during the visit.

**Germany**

German Chancellor Mr. Gerhard Schroeder visited India as part of Annual Summit from 6-7 October, 2004. An MoU for Cooperation in S&T was signed between DST and Max Planck Society.

**Commonwealth**

Commonwealth Secretary General, Mr. Donald Mckinnon visited India from 27-29 October, 2004. No Agreement was signed during the visit.

**Permanent Seat in Security Council**

†113. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the assembly of United Nations has any programme for increasing the number of permanent members of Security Council of United Nations in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made so far by Government for India's claim in this regard and whether these efforts are adequate; and

(d) if not, the steps Government are going to take in this regard at international level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The issue of the reform and the restructuring of the UN Security Council has been under discussion at the United Nations for several years. While there is no specific proposal under the UN General Assembly for the expansion of the UN Security Council, an Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) was set up in 1993, where discussions have taken place on all aspects of the reform and restructuring of the UN Security Council. The Working Group, however, has not been able to reach any decisions in this regard.

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) India believes that the reform and restructuring exercise is important and that by any objective criteria, India's case is credible and strong. There is growing momentum in support of India's candidature for permanent membership. The Government has been pursuing India's candidature for permanent membership of the Security Council, and has taken up India's case in all its high-level bilateral interactions. Several countries—permanent members as well as others—have openly expressed support for India's candidature either in the UN or in the context of bilateral exchanges. Such support is exercised in different forums and forms and it is, therefore, difficult to give a definitive number of countries which have specifically supported India or anticipate any specific time frame for reform or expansion of the UNSC, in view of the diverse perceptions on the specifics of such reforms.

#### **Confidence Building measures between India and Pakistan**

114. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of Pak Foreign Minister to New Delhi, Pak agreed to a number of defence related Confidence Building Measures, but there could be no agreement on Siachen; and

(b) if so, what CBM's were agreed upon and what was the point of disagreement on issue relating to Siachen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (d) Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Khurshid M. Kasuri, accompanied by the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, visited India from September 4-8, 2004 and held discussions with External Affairs Minister, Shri K. Natwar Singh, on September 5-6, 2004. They reviewed the overall progress in the Composite Dialogue. The wide-ranging proposals on confidence building, promotion of friendly exchanges, and enhancing trade and economic cooperation, made by both the sides, were examined and it was agreed that these would be discussed further.

The two Ministers agreed to a number of technical level meetings on various subjects including, expert level meetings on Conventional and Nuclear CBMs, *inter alia* to discuss the draft agreement on advance notification of missile tests; meeting between railway authorities on the