

Prospects of India's Election to a Permanent Seat in UNO

561. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL:

SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the prospects of India's election to a permanent seat in the UNO.
- (b) how many countries have, so far, indicated their willingness to support India's candidature; and
- (c) what steps are being taken to seek support from the rest of the members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) There is growing realisation that developing countries must be included if permanent members category of the UN Security Council is expanded. However, *so far* there is no agreement on expansion of the Security Council. Eight countries have so far made public expressions of support at the UN for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. These countries are Bhutan, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Laos, Mauritius, Russia and Vietnam. In addition, a number of countries have expressed support for India's candidature during bilateral and international meetings. India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council is taken up at every appropriate opportunity available.

Failure of India's Foreign Policy on Fiji

562. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a failure of India's foreign policy that the Indian origin Prime Minister of Fiji remained in custody of abductors for long and no action had been taken to ensure safety and security of lives and property of people of Indian origin which has caused tremendous anxiety among their relations in India; and
- (b) the steps taken to ensure early release of the Prime Minister

[27 July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Shri Mahendra Chaudhary and that no excesses are committed against the people of Indian origin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(c) Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry was released on 13 July, 2000. The Government of India, in close cooperation with the Commonwealth and countries like Australia, New Zealand, U.K. and others took every step possible in the circumstances to secure the early release of hostages and thereafter is trying to restore the democracy and the rule of law in the interest of all peace-loving Fijians including those of Indian origin.

Outcome of Prime Minister's visit to Lisbon

563. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister led high-power delegation to Lisbon and participated in First India-European Union summit held on 28th June, 2000;

(b) if so, the details/outcome of discussion held between the two countries;

(c) whether President of E.C. has predicted ten fold increase between Indian and E.U. bilateral trade which is at present at \$20 billion; and

(d) whether during this visit difference *over* trade related issues have been narrowed down particularly E.U.'s indiscriminate use of anti-dumping measures, labour standards and environment as non-tariff barriers to Indian exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Discussions at the Summit allowed both sides to review the bilateral relationship as well as to exchange views on regional and multi-lateral issues of common concern. It was agreed that India and the E.U. will forge a new strategic partnership in the 21st century.