

Expansion OF UNSC

4535. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is pushing for expansion of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC);
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard;
- (c) the reaction of the permanent members of the UNSC thereto;
- (d) the steps being taken by G-4 group to persuade the permanent members for reform of the UNSC both in the permanent as well as non-permanent categories; and
- (e) the present status of the UNSC reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (e) The Government of India has been working along with other like-minded countries for building support among the UN membership for a meaningful restructuring and expansion of the UN Security Council. We have, in collaboration with Brazil, Japan and Germany (together known as the G-4) proposed expansion of the membership of the UN Security Council from the present fifteen to twenty-five by adding six permanent and four non-permanent members.

The efforts of the G-4 and other pro-reform countries were instrumental in the commencement of text-based inter-governmental negotiations in the UN on the issue of Security Council reform in July 2010. Recognizing that there is widespread support to take the reform process towards a concrete outcome, the G-4 Foreign Ministers met in New York in February 2011 and decided to press ahead with all necessary steps to achieve at the earliest an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership of the Security Council. This was followed by intensive outreach efforts by the G-4 countries to engage other Members States of the UN and build support for their proposal. The G-4 Foreign Ministers again met in New York in September 2011 where they agreed that the strong support received for their initiative should be considered as the basis for further discussions in the inter-governmental negotiations.

Among the permanent members of the Security Council, UK and France have supported the G-4 proposal as well as the candidatures of the G-4 countries for permanent membership of an expanded Council. USA is in favour of limited expansion in permanent and non-permanent membership of the Council and would

like the new permanent members to be selected on the basis of their contribution to maintenance of international peace and security. In a speech to our Parliament in November 2010, US President Obama said that in the years ahead he looked forward to a reformed Security Council that included India as a permanent member. Russia and China have also articulated support for expansion of the Security Council but they would like any expansion to be limited, gradual and based on the widest possible consensus among the UN membership. Russia has separately expressed strong support to India for a permanent seat in an expanded Security council. India and other G-4 countries continue to remain engaged with the permanent members as part of their outreach efforts to build support for reform and expansion of the Security Council.

During the current UN General Assembly session, five meetings of the inter-governmental negotiations have been held. In these meetings, it was seen that a large majority of the Member States prefer a reform model based on expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership. This has reinforced the support for the ongoing G-4 initiative.

Chinese Rail and Air Connectivity with Arunachal Pradesh

†4536. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chinese Government is strengthening its rail and air connectivity as well as its vigilance mechanism along its borders with India at Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Government has taken any further steps and is holding discussion on issues for protecting its interests and safeguarding its borders, keeping in view the situation prevailing at the Indo-Chinese border; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) Government is aware that China is developing the infrastructure in the border regions opposite India in the Tibet Autonomous Region. This includes the Qinghai-Tibet Railway line, with proposed extension up to Xigaze and Nyingchi, and development of road and airport facilities. Government is giving careful and special attention to the development of infrastructure in the border areas

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.