

(b) if not, the reasons for which the allied countries of India are getting distanced from it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

India's permanent membership of UNSC

†1775. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries in the world who are not in favour of India's becoming a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the details thereof; and

(b) the number of countries which have been supporting India's membership to the UNSC from time to time, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) and (b) Government is of the view that India has all the credentials to be a permanent member in a reformed Security Council that reflects contemporary global realities, for which expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership is essential.

There is a small minority of countries known as the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group [comprising Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Spain and Turkey] that would like to see expansion of the UNSC in only the non-permanent category and are opposed to an expansion of permanent membership altogether. Pakistan has made known its opposition to India's bid for permanent membership.

A large number of countries have supported efforts to expand the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories and have also endorsed India's candidature for permanent membership in an expanded and reformed Security Council. Four out of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council have bilaterally expressed official affirmations of support for India's candidature to a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council. In the Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the visit of the Prime Minister to China in May 2015 it is also stated that "China attaches great importance to India's status in international affairs as a large developing country, and understands and supports India's aspiration to play a greater role in the United Nations including in the Security Council".

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.