

Permanent seat of UNSC

†661. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has not made serious efforts to acquire a permanent seat in the UN Security Council;

(b) whether India has not been able to acquire a permanent seat till now ever since it has become a republic nation;

(c) the reasons for not assigning permanent seat to India in the Security Council even after the consent for the same was expressed by many member countries; and

(d) the changes proposed by Government in foreign policy/diplomacy to secure permanent seat in the Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) and (b) The Government of India has accorded highest priority to getting permanent membership for India in an expanded United Nations Security Council. India strongly believes that it has all the credentials to be a permanent member of a reformed and expanded UN Security Council that reflects contemporary global realities. The Government of India has taken a series of initiatives at the UN as well as at bilateral level with other countries in pursuance of this objective.

(c) and (d) A large number of countries have supported India's candidature for permanent membership in an expanded UN Security Council. This has been expressed in various fora including in bilateral inter-governmental meetings and discussions. However, the question of India's membership of the Security Council would be considered only after an agreement on the nature and extent of expansion of the Council is arrived at in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter, which requires approval by 2/3rd of the Members of the United Nations.

India is actively engaged in the ongoing Inter-Governmental Negotiations on UNSC reforms at the UN. India is working alongside other reform-oriented countries through its membership in the G-4 Group (India, Japan, Brazil and Germany) and the L.69 Group (cross-regional group of developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America) to build support among the UN Member States for expansion of the UN Security Council.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.