

Expansion of UNSC and other reforms

1370. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by India during the last three years for emphasizing the need for expansion of the UN Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories and for having reforms in international bodies like World Trade Organisation, International Monetary Fund and World Health Organisation;

(b) the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, whether Government would make every effort in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (c) Government has accorded great priority to getting permanent membership for India in an expanded UN Security Council that reflects contemporary global realities. India in collaboration with other pro-reform countries has been consistently making efforts to build support among the UN Member States for expansion of the UNSC, in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

India has been maintaining that global institutions need to be reformed, starting from the United Nations and its Security Council. Reformed multilateralism has been our motto for a purposeful reform of existing structures, which must continue to serve the international community even more in this complex and uncertain times.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered a keynote address virtually at this year's High-Level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) session on Friday, 17th July, 2020 at the United Nations in New York and reiterated India's call for a 'reformed multilateralism' in a post- COVID-19 world which reflects the realities of the contemporary world.

India is actively engaged in the ongoing Inter-Governmental Negotiations on UNSC reform at the UN and has been working alongside other reform-oriented countries through its membership of the G-4 (India, Japan, Brazil and Germany) and the L.69 Group (cross-regional grouping of developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America). The issue of UNSC reforms is discussed in all pertinent bilateral and multilateral meetings, including at the highest levels.

'New Orientation for a Reformed Multilateral System (NORMS)' is going to be one of the key priorities of India's tenure as non- permanent member of the UNSC in

2021-22. The call for urgent reform of governance structures of multilateral bodies has been one of India's main priorities at high-level bilateral and multilateral engagements.

Visit of the US president to India

1371. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when did Government first receive information from the US Government about the planned visit of US President to India;

(b) whether members of the US President's staff and delegation were tested for the COVID-19 virus during his visit;

(c) if so, whether any member was tested positive for the virus;

(d) if yes, the reasons why precautions were not taken; and

(e) the precautions taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus at events organised during the visit of the US President?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) Dates for the State visit of His Excellency Donald J. Trump, President of the United States to India on 24-25 February, 2020 were decided in mutual consultation by the respective governments. The visit was announced by the Government on 11 February, 2020.

(b) to (e) At the time of President Trump's visit *i.e.* 24-25 February, 2020, there was no requirement of mandatory Covid-19 test for travellers coming from foreign countries. Pandemic status to diseases is given by WHO which declared Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) a pandemic on 11 March, 2020. The requirement of mandatory universal screening of all international passengers arriving in 21 airports in India for Covid-19 was implemented by Government of India *w.e.f.* 4 March, 2020. Therefore, during President Trump's visit to India, established norms and protocols for handling such high level visits were followed by the Government of India.

Ease of international travel for Indians

1372. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the list and details of countries which have relaxed visa requirements for Indians to travel to their country since 2000;