

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Issue regarding significance of India's membership of BRICS.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to raise a matter of very serious importance which deals with the international relations and international issues. Recently, the hon. Prime Minister visited Brazil.

Despite the change of Government in Brazil, it has chosen to stay with BRICS. That was actually a surprise to the world. BRICS represents Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Each Member of the very diverse, geographical and dispersed group has internal contradictions which are not easily overcome. There are sharper contradictions between China and India. It was Russia that helped to develop this forum and sustain it. The Russian objective was to mount international opposition to the United States in the unipolar moment that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

As China rose in 21st Century, it found much common with Russia in fighting US dominance of the world. China also found the BRICS a useful forum to promote a global economic agenda. It is in sync with its emergence as the world's biggest exporter and second largest economy. For both Russia and China, having three large developing nations – India, Brazil and South Africa – as partners in their enterprise makes eminent political sense.

But what is India's gain? How is our interest in alignment with the declared policies of the BRICS? Many of India's problems in the multilateral domain are rooted in China's opposition. It stalled our

efforts to join UN Security Council, the Nuclear Suppliers Group. It also stalled taking action against the extremists who are being harboured in Pakistan. Delhi's biggest trade deficit is with China. India has cited China's economic threat for not joining the RCEP.

On countering terrorism, China views the problem through Pakistani eyes.

There is a profound imbalance of power with BRICS. Chinese economy is twice as large as the other four put together. What does India gain by becoming a part of BRICS? Will the Government come out with an answer?

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्री सप्तगिरी उलाका को श्री बी. महताब द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।