

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5856
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
INDIA S CANDIDATURE FOR SECURITY COUNCIL .
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `U.S. Congress urge Bill to back India` appearing in the Indian Express dated March 19, 2000;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Government of India is aware of the news item captioned `U.S Congressmen urge Bill to back India` which appeared in the Indian Express of March 19, 2000.

(b) & (c) The news item concerns a combined letter written by 65 Congressmen to the US President on March 17, 2000 just prior to his visit to India. The letter draws attention to the commonalities that exist between India and the US as the two largest democracies and draws attention to reasons for strengthening US relations with India. In the letter, the Congressmen also express their belief that to pave the way for a qualitatively new and closer relationship between the world`s two largest democracies, the best way would be for the US to publicly acknowledge the strength of India`s claim to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council.