

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3984

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005

DECLINE IN DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES OF UN

Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of India has urged that the UN needs to bring more balance in tune with the requirements of the developing countries;
- (b) if so, whether this suggestion was made by the Indian Foreign Secretary while delivering his keynote address on the report of the UN Secretary General's high level panel on threats, challenges and change;
- (c) if so, the various other suggestions put forward by the Indian representative in his address;
- (d) the extent to which they were accepted and incorporated in the UN Secretary's report;
- (e) whether the Union Government has expressed its concern over the decline in the developmental activities of the UN;
- (f) if so, whether India believes that attention should be focused on the entire gamut of UN institutional reforms including expansion of the Security Council; and
- (g) if so, the reaction of the UN in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a)-(c) At the Panel Discussion on the report of the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, organized by the Indian Council of World Affairs on December 30, 2004, in his key note address, the Foreign Secretary highlighted the need to bring greater balance in the UN's priorities in order to reflect the concerns of the majority of its membership. He also emphasized India's interest in all aspects of UN reform and touched upon a number of issues including the need for institutional reforms, improvement in the working methods of the UN, democratization in decision making, effective multilateralism and according priority to development and universal nuclear disarmament.

(d) The UN Secretary General's report released on March 21, 2005 draws upon the reports of the High Level Panel on 'Threats, Challenges and Change', the United Nations Millennium Project, 2005 and the discussions on these reports in the UN among member States. India had actively participated in these discussions. The Secretary General's report, inter alia, recommends fixing a time-table for reaching the target of 0.7% of GDP for ODA, greater debt relief and completion of the Doha Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations by 2006.

(e) In the discussions at the UN, the Indian delegation has highlighted the diminishing of developmental activities of the UN over the recent years.

(f)-(g) India maintains that attention should be focused on the entire gamut of UN institutional reforms including expansion of the Security Council. Discussions on these issues are currently underway at the UN.