

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:52
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
INDIA'S CANDIDATURE FOR UNSG POST
Chandrapan Shri C.K.;Krishnadas Shri N.N.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has nominated any candidate for the post of the United Nations Secretary General;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons behind the above nomination;
- (d) whether the Government is making any efforts to mobilise support from other countries for the purpose;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the stage at which our efforts to acquire permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council stands at present?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) – (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN ANSWER TO PARTS (a) – (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 52 TO BE ANSWERED ON 26-07-2006 REGARDING "INDIA'S CANDIDATURE FOR UNSG POST"

(a) India announced the candidature of Shri Shashi Tharoor, Under Secretary General for Communications and Public Information at the United Nations, for the post of United Nations Secretary General on June 15, 2006.

(b) & (c) India strongly supports the principle of regional rotation under which the next Secretary General of the United Nations should be from Asia. We also believe that a prospective UN Secretary General should have impeccable credentials, be acceptable to the broadest possible membership of the UN and have a strong commitment to the reform of the UN and the interests of the developing countries. It is in this framework that India decided to announce Shri Tharoor's candidature. Shri Tharoor, an Indian national and a well known author, has served the UN in diverse capacities since 1978. During his long innings at the UN, he has held a number of key positions in various areas.

(d) & (e) The Government is actively engaged with other member states to mobilise support for Shri Tharoor's candidature. Besides the ongoing demarches by our Heads of Mission abroad, the Prime Minister has written to several Heads of Government/State. The Government is arranging Shri Tharoor's travel to some countries. Special Envoys are also being sent to some other countries to seek support. Shri Tharoor's presence at the African Union Summit in Banjul (The Gambia) from June 29 – July 1, 2006 was received very positively and he had an opportunity to interact with the top political leadership of a large number of African countries. The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, New York, has organised informal meetings for Shri Tharoor with various regional groups at the UN to enable him to put forward his vision of the UN and to seek support for his candidature.

(f) The reform and expansion of the UN Security Council, in both permanent and non-permanent categories, is central to the process of UN reform. There is a widespread and growing feeling among the member states that the democracy deficit in the governance of the UN must be rectified by reform of the UN Security Council. The representation of developing countries from Africa, Asia and other regions, as permanent members of the UN Security Council is essential, and in this context India is pursuing its candidature for permanent membership in the UN Security Council. There has been a steady accretion of support for India's candidature since it was announced in 1994.