

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4698  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2010  
BLOCKADE OF PALESTINE  
Acharia Shri Basudeb

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there is a continuous social, economic and psychological blockade of the Palestinian people;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the government to support Palestinian cause; and
- (c) the present stand of the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) to (c) Government are aware of the restrictions placed on the Palestinians residing in Gaza Strip. India has called for an early and significant easing of restrictions on the free movement of persons and goods within Palestine.

India's abiding commitment to the Palestinian cause is an important component of our foreign policy. Our unwavering support to the Palestinian cause is reiterated at every available opportunity and forum including during the recent visit of the Hon'ble President to Syria and by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in his message on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, organized by the UN on 29 November 2010.

India believes that the conflict in West Asia is essentially political in nature and cannot be resolved by force. India wishes to see the creation of an environment for the earliest possible resumption of dialogue. In line with our support for UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, India supports a negotiated solution resulting in a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine living within secure and recognized borders, side by side at peace with Israel as endorsed in the Quartet Roadmap and UNSC Resolutions 1397 & 1515. India has supported the Arab Peace Plan, which calls for withdrawal of Israel to pre-1967 borders, along with recognition of Israel and the establishment of the State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital.