

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1406  
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2011  
SERIOUS DISTURBANCES IN WORLD  
Patil Shri C. R.

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

- (a) whether the Government is alive to the political developments in the Middle East including the steps being taken towards establishment of an independent Palestinian State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the Government's stand in respect of developments in the Middle East?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) Yes. The Government has been following the political developments in the West Asia and North Africa. The people in a number of countries of this region have expressed their aspirations for economic and political change. The Palestinian National Authority has submitted an application to the United Nations for the admission of the state of Palestine to full membership of the United Nations.

(c) India respects the legitimate aspirations of the people of these countries. The transformation process in the region should take place in accordance with international law and through peaceful means, without resort to force, but through establishment of broad dialogue and with due respect for the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the countries in the region.

India's abiding commitment to the Palestinian cause is an important component of our foreign policy. Our unwavering support to the Palestinian cause has been reiterated at every forum. Hon'ble Prime Minister in his speech at the United Nations General Assembly on 24 September 2011 stated that India has been steadfast in its support for the Palestinian people's struggle for a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognized borders side by side and at peace with Israel, as per the relevant resolutions of United Nations, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet roadmap. Hon'ble Prime Minister added that India looks forward to welcoming Palestine as an equal member of the United Nations. India supported Palestine's admission as a member to the UNESCO recently.