

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:197

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2011

UN REFORMS

Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu;Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of the reforms of the United Nations, particularly the expansion of the Security Council;
- (b) the steps taken by India to get the process expedited and to seek a permanent berth in the Security Council;
- (c) whether India is formally backing South Africa for permanent membership as well; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.197 REGARDING `UN REFORMS` FOR ANSWER ON 07.12.2011

(a) India strongly advocates an early and meaningful reform of the UN to make it better equipped to serve the needs of the world community. In this context, India has called for revitalization of the UN General Assembly and expansion of the UN Security Council to make the UN more effective and reflective of contemporary realities. These issues are currently being debated in the UN. A meeting on revitalization of the General Assembly was held in the UN as recently as 1 December 2011. Inter-governmental negotiations on various proposals made by Member States for reform and expansion of the UN Security Council are also being held in the UN since February 2009. Most recently, the first exchange of the eighth round of these negotiations was held in New York on 28 November 2011.

(b) India has been integral to the efforts for an early expansion of the UN Security Council and improvement of its working methods. We have been actively participating in the inter-governmental negotiations. Along with our G-4 partners (Brazil, Germany and Japan) and other like-minded countries, we have led an initiative for text-based negotiations, following which the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations prepared a text by including various proposals made by member states on reform of the Security Council. This text is being used as the basis of ongoing intergovernmental negotiations since July 2010.

The Government has also made it known that India has all the credentials required to be a permanent member of an expanded UN Security Council. To this end, India remains engaged bilaterally with other UN Member States as well as within the G-4. The G-4 Foreign Ministers have agreed in February 2011 to press ahead with all necessary steps to achieve expansion and reform of the Security Council at the earliest. They met again recently in New York on 23 September 2011 where they agreed to further build on the significant support received from Member States and to continue their outreach efforts.

(c) & (d) India has consistently taken a position that Africa must find greater representation in both categories of an expanded Security Council. We have called for two permanent seats for Africa along with its enhanced representation in the non-permanent category. The leaders of India, Brazil and South Africa met in Tshwane, South Africa on 18 October, 2011 for a summit level meeting of the IBSA countries. In a joint declaration issued at the meeting, the three countries declared support for each others` aspirations for permanent seats in a reformed United Nations Security Council.