

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3232  
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2011  
PALESTINIAN MEMBERSHIP IN UNO  
Venugopal Shri P.

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

- (a) whether India backed Palestinian bid for UN Membership;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of countries supported Palestinian cause in the UN General Assembly;
- (d) whether India pursued other countries as well to support Palestinian cause; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) India was the first non-Arab country to recognize the State of Palestine in 1988. We have maintained diplomatic relations with Palestine for over two decades now. Consistent with our commitment to the Palestinian cause, as well as our solidarity with the Palestinian people, India has backed the Palestinian bid for full membership of the United Nations. Addressing the United Nations General Assembly on 24 September, 2011, our Prime Minister reiterated India's support for Palestinian membership of the United Nations. India has also actively supported Palestine's application for full membership of the UN at the meetings of the UN Security Council and its Standing Committee on Admission of New Members. India also voted in favour of Palestine's membership to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 31 October, 2011.

(c) The Palestinian application for full membership of the United Nations is under consideration of the UN Security Council; it is yet to be considered in the UN General Assembly. Separately, 130 Member States of the United Nations have so far recognized Palestine as a State.

(d) & (e) India has been actively engaged in garnering support for the Palestinian cause, including through its membership of the Non-Aligned Movement's Committee on Palestine. In its statements at the UN General Assembly and the Security Council, India has called for support to the Palestinian application for full membership of the UN. We have also urged the Security Council to recommend to the General Assembly that Palestine be admitted to the United Nations.