

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2999
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2012
AID TO PALESTINE
Sivasami Shri C.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has announced 10 million US dollar aid to Palestine;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that India has decided to back Palestine for membership of the United Nations; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India announced US\$ 10 million as budgetary assistance to Palestine during the State Visit of Palestinian President Mr. Mahmoud Abbas on September 11, 2012.

(c) Yes.

(d) India has always espoused the Palestinian cause in the UN. India strongly supported the Palestinian application for membership of UN in the United Nations Security Council in 2011. Hon'ble Prime Minister had stated in his speech in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 24, 2011 that India looks forward to welcoming Palestine as an equal member of the United Nations. During the State Visit of Palestinian President Mr. Mahmoud Abbas to India on September 11, 2012, Hon'ble Prime Minister stated that India will continue to support Palestine's bid for full and equal membership of the United Nations. Recently, India co-sponsored and supported the resolution on enhancing Palestine's status from 'Non-Member Observer Entity' to 'Non-Member Observer State' in the UNGA which was adopted on November 29, 2012.