

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(2000-2001)

(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

SIXTH REPORT

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[Action Taken on the Recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Committee (13th Lok Sabha) on “India’s role in the United Nations with particular reference to her claim for Permanent Membership of the Security Council”]

Presented to Lok Sabha on 23.8.2001

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 23.8.2001

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

August, 2001/Sravana, 1923 (Saka)

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ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (2000-2001)**Shrimati Krishna Bose - Chairperson**

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4. Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi
5. Shri Bhim Dahal
6. Shri Mohan S. Delkar
7. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo
8. Shri Gurcharan Singh Galib
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25. Shri Saleem Iqbal Sherwani
26. Shri Kolar Basavanagoud
27. Shri Kirti Jha Azad
28. Shri Chandra Vijay Singh
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30. Dr. (Smt.) Beatrix D'Souza

Rajya Sabha

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32. Ms. Mabel Rebello
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40. Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma

41. Shri Pritish Nandi**
42. Dr. Karan Singh
43. Shri Mahendra Prasad
44. Shri Arjun Singh
45. Shri Manoj Bhattacharya

Secretariat

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|--------------------|
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| 2. | Shri A.K. Singh | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 3. | Shri R.K. Saxena | - | Under Secretary |
| 4. | Smt. Anita B. Panda | - | Assistant Director |
-

* Ceased to be Member of the Committee consequent upon his resignation from the Seat in Rajya Sabha on 18.5.2001

** Ceased to be Member of the Committee w.e.f. 3.8.2001 consequent upon change of his nomination from Standing Committee on External Affairs to Standing Committee on Home Affairs by Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on External Affairs having been authorised by the Committee to submit the report on their behalf, present this Sixth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on "India's role in the United Nations with particular reference to her claim for Permanent Membership of the Security Council".

2. The Third Report was presented to both the Houses of Parliament on 25th August, 2000. The Government furnished their replies indicating Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Report.

3. The Draft Report on the basis of Action Taken Notes was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on External Affairs (2000-2001) at their sitting held on 6th August, 2001. Minutes of the sitting of the Committee has been reproduced as Appendix-I to the Report.

4. An analysis of Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs (13th Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix-II.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the

body of the Report and have also been reproduced in consolidated form in Appendix-III.

KRISHNA BOSE,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on External Affairs

NEW DELHI;

August 6, 2000

Sravana 15, 1923 (Saka)

REPORT

1. The report of the Committee deals with the Action Taken, by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on "India's role in the United Nations with particular reference to her claim for Permanent Membership of the Security Council". The Third Report of the Committee was presented to Lok Sabha on 25th August, 2000.

2. Action taken notes have been received from the Ministry of External Affairs on all the observations/recommendations contained in the report. These have been categorised as follows :-

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by Government

Para Nos.58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 64, 65, 66, 70, 71, 73, 74, 76

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government replies.

Para No. 63

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration.

Para Nos.67, 68, 69, 72, 75

(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited.

Para No. Nil

3. The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some of their observations/recommendations:

Para No. 67 & 72

4. In Para No.67 of their Third Report (13th Lok Sabha), the Committee had felt that we have come to a point where we must press over claim more vigorously and in a systematic manner. The Committee had felt that though we have the assured support of some of the countries, we are required to make more concerted efforts to achieve a well-deserved Permanent Membership in Security Council.

5. The Ministry, in their reply, have stated that India's candidature for Permanent Membership of the Security Council continues to be one of the priorities of Government. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, reiterated our view at the UN Millennium Summit in September, 2000 in NewYork. It is further stated that the matter is being taken up during bilateral visits, both at the political and official level, for example, during recent visits of Heads of State/Government from Nepal, Maldives, Japan, Russia, Iceland, Mauritius, Kyrgyzstan and Myanmar.

6. The Committee note that India's candidature for Permanent Membership of the Security Council continued to be one of the priorities of Government and that the matter has been taken up at the highest level during recent visits of Head of State and Government from Nepal, Maldives, Japan, Russia, Iceland, Mauritius, Kyrgyztan and Myanmar. The Committee find that the reply does not specify various other measures, if any, taken by the Ministry about pressing India's claim more vigorously and systematically except that the matter is being taken up during bilateral visits at political and official levels. The Committee feel that apart from serving the purpose of propaganda/publicity to India's concern, it, perhaps, does not help to mould the thinking of policy makers and elicit support for India's claim in the Security Council. The Committee feel that the Ministry do not

seem to take any follow up action after the conclusion of such bilateral discussions. The Committee further feel that India should constantly propagate her claim in the various open meetings held under the auspices of the UN forum as well as in the meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group, in order to generate momentum in support of her candidature. The Committee desire that the Ministry should formulate a specific plan of action for the purpose, particularly for the Indian Missions and Embassies abroad, which should also be

suitably sensitised to enable them to play a vital role in influencing the response of individual countries for India's claim to be a Permanent Member of the Security Council. The Committee feel that the Indian Missions/Embassies located in the existing Permanent Member- countries of the Security Council as well as those in the prospective contenders for the Permanent Seat have a special role to play. The Committee desire that in all such Missions/Embassies, a United Nations Desk/a team of dedicated staff on UN matters be set up, who will submit detailed progress reports to the Ministry every month indicating action taken by them as well as the response received. The Committee desire that the Ministry should impress upon Missions/posts abroad the desirability of generating academic interest also on India's claim for Permanent Membership of UN Security Council. The Committee also desire that Ministry of External Affairs should constantly monitor the work done by each Mission in this regard and suggest strategies according to particular interests of each individual country.

7. The Committee note that in a reply to a Starred Question No.144 in Lok Sabha on 1st August, 2001, the Ministry of External Affairs had informed that during the period w.e.f. January, 2000 to June, 2001, the External Affairs Minister visited 30 countries including UK, USA, Russia and Germany and the Ministers of State of External Affairs visited 15 countries. The Committee are not sure whether the matter of India's claim for Permanent Membership of Security Council was on the structured agenda during these bilateral visits. The Committee would, therefore, desire that in all such visits, to be undertaken by high-level dignitaries including those by the External Affairs Minister, India's claim for Permanent Seat in the UN Security Council should be one of the main items on the agenda. The Committee also desire that the Government should also pursue the matter further at various levels and on different occasions through Diplomatic channels to its logical conclusions. The Committee would also like the Ministry of External Affairs to vigorously propagate and mobilize support for India's claim for Permanent Membership of the UN Security Council during the forthcoming XIV NAM Summit scheduled to be held at Dhaka.

8. In para 72 of their third Report, the Committee had recommended that the Government may pursue with aspirant nations from industrialised world, diplomatically and bilaterally and should make them accept that it is better if we work together for securing Permanent Membership of UN Security Council. In their reply, the Ministry have stated that they are in regular consultations with both Japan and Germany on the subject of Security Council Reforms and Restructuring. The Committee feel that in the current scenario, casual consultations may not suffice and, therefore, an institutionalised system for regular and formal consultations may be devised to ensure better and fruitful interaction with aspirant nations.

9. Furthermore, the Committee also desire that the Ministry may assist select Indian and foreign Universities to organise Seminars/Symposia and invite experts to deliver lectures in order to awaken wider interest on this issue.

Para No.68

10. In Para No.68 of Third Report, the Committee had recommended that the Ministry may work out a multi-pronged strategy to put across our claim in a forceful and convincing way before the comity of nations both at bilateral discussions and multilateral fora viz. EU, NAM, OAU, ASEAN etc. The Committee had suggested three categories of nations, to which we should speak to – existing Permanent Members of the Security Council, aspirant nations from industrialised world and developing countries. The Committee had also felt that the support of China was very crucial and expressed happiness that our relations with China have reached a degree of friendship and cordiality. The Committee had also felt that we should continue negotiations with China to win their support and make all efforts to convince them that India faces similar problems with developed nations and these could be effectively resolved, if they work together in Security Council.

11. In their reply, the Ministry of External Affairs have stated that the support of each and every nation will be important should there be a contest for Permanent Membership of the UN Security Council. The Ministry have further stated that among the P-5, France and Russia have publicly stated their support for our candidature. The UK and US have acknowledged India as a natural contender. About China, the Ministry have stated that improvement in our relations with China has permitted frank and constructive discussion on various issues including Security Council restructuring. According to the Ministry, the Chinese view is that UNSC should be made more representative by including more developing countries. The Ministry have also stated that we maintain a cooperative and constructive relationship with aspirant nations.

12. The Committee agree with the view of the Ministry that the support of each and every nation will be important, should there be a contest for Permanent Membership of the UN Security Council. The Committee further note that among the P-5, France and Russia have publicly stated their support. The Committee are glad to note the statement of the French President Mr. Jacques Chirac reiterating France's unequivocal support for India's claim as well as the support shown by the Colombian President Mr. Andres Pastrana Arango to India's candidature.

13. As regards China's support, the Committee note that the Sino-Indian ties have been showing signs of improvement with visits of President Shri K.R. Narayanan to China in May, 2000 followed by the visit of Mr. Li Peng, Chairman, Standing Committee of the National Peoples' Congress of the Peoples' Republic of China to India in January, 2001. However, the Committee are of the view that our China policy needs to be more focussed because China's stand on India's claim for Permanent Membership of the Security Council is yet to show a favourable tilt. The Committee note that Mr. Li Peng, during his meeting with the Indian Parliamentarians, had observed : "We fully understand India's desire because India is after all, a big country. But I think given the

complexity of the issue, it has to be decided by all the countries in the world through consultations". In the interest of international stability and promotion of multi-polarity, the Committee feel that there is an urgent need to continually strive to bring more understanding and closeness in Sino-Indian relations. The Committee also hope that China would reciprocate India's gesture in the year 1955 of declining the offer of Permanent Membership of Security Council in their favour.

14. The Committee would like the Ministry to strive to increase the interaction between India and China by facilitating people to people contacts and mutual exchanges of Parliamentarians, scholars and experts in various fields. The Ministry may also consider sponsoring bilateral visits to influence China's attitude as well as to convince them of the need and desirability of having India in the Security Council as a Permanent Member keeping in view the universal acceptance of India as an established, democratic, responsible, strong and economically fast progressing nation.

Para No.69

15. In Para No.69 of their Third Report, the Committee had recommended that in the present scenario, USA was the key player. It had a great influence in the world politics, particularly with European Union and its other allies. Therefore, the Committee had recommended incessant efforts to be made to bring them to a situation of realising the need for objective assessment of the case of India and to ensure that US and its allies extend their support for India's claim.

16. The Ministry, while agreeing that the US is a key player in the debate on UNSC reform and restructuring, have stated that the US has agreed in April, 2000, to an expansion beyond the figure of 21. It is further stated that there has been a remarkable improvement in Indo-US bilateral relations and mutual understanding has been raised to a higher plateau as a result of the exchange of visits by the then US President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee last year. The Ministry have expressed the hope that the new phase of improved relations and understanding will be mirrored, more forthrightly in the US policy towards India's candidature for Permanent Membership of the Security Council.

17. The Committee have taken note of the contention of the Ministry that the improvement in Indo-US relations should find expression in the US policy towards India's candidature. However, the Committee also feel that although the US recognises India as a strong contender for the Security Council seat, but is yet to come out clearly on this issue. The Committee observe that the Ministry have not made sincere efforts to convince the US for the expansion of the UN Security Council with larger representation of developing countries in both its Permanent and Non-Permanent categories. The Committee feel that the lobbying firms hired by the Ministry should also be assigned the task of convincing US

policy-makers about India's eligibility for the Permanent Seat in UN Security Council. Further, the Ministry should re-deploy/restructure the desk dealing with UN matters, if any, in the Indian Embassy in the US by providing suitable manpower and provide them with a carefully chalked out detailed plan of action. The Committee also feel that the concerned officers in the Embassy must keep themselves abreast of the latest developments in this direction and that the Ministry must issue suitable directions from time to time. In addition, the Ministry may formulate new strategies and step up their efforts to supply adequate information and publicity material to the Embassy without any further delay. The Committee would also like to stress upon the fact that the Indian Missions/Posts abroad, particularly those in the US should take prompt action against any misinformation and/or adverse publicity on the issue of India's claim for the Permanent Membership of UN Security Council.
