

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4086
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
SCO MEMBERSHIP
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is keen to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the SCO has decided to admit more members; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) India's interest in becoming a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) has been expressed publicly at various SCO fora in the recent past.

During the last SCO Council of Heads of State meeting in Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic) [Sept 13, 2013], Shri Salman Khurshid, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister stated that India can contribute substantially to the SCO as a full member, after the organization reaches consensus on the expansion process.

Earlier, during the 2012 SCO Council of Heads of State meeting in Beijing (People's Republic of China) [June 7, 2012], India expressed its readiness to play a larger, wider and more constructive role in the SCO as a full member, as and when the organisation finalises the expansion modalities. Further, India, on its part, had been participating constructively at all SCO meetings open to the Observers. By doing so, he added that India has shown its strong willingness to be meaningfully associated with the SCO.

(b) & (c) While the SCO has decided in principle to admit more members, the organisation has not yet finalised the modalities of the expansion process.