

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1268

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003

PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP IN UNSC

RENUKA CHOWDHURY;TUFANI SAROJ;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

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

- (a) whether the UN Secretary General has observed the formation of a new policy of enlarging the Security Council to make it more representative of twenty first century geopolitical realities;
- (b) if so, whether the Secretary General proposes to increase the number of permanent members and the elected membership of the Security Council;
- (c) whether he has also proposed not to elect on the council, countries which have issues before it;
- (d) whether any report in this regard was submitted to the UN General Assembly by the Secretary General at the recently held session;
- (e) if so, whether it was discussed at the General Assembly and if so, the outcome thereof;
- (f) whether the issue of permanent membership to India was discussed with leaders of various countries recently; and
- (g) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a)-(g) In his Reports to the 58th UN General Assembly, on the Implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the Annual Report on the Work of the Organisation, the UN Secretary General noted that the Security Council needs to regain the confidence of States and of world public opinion, and will be better able to do so if it is perceived to be broadly representative of the international community as a whole and of the geo-political realities of the contemporary world. The Secretary General, however, has not made any specific proposal on the reform of the Security Council. He has set up a 16-member High Level Panel on Global Security, Threats and Reform of the International System, which has been tasked, inter alia, with the changes necessary to ensure effective collective action including but not limited to a review of the principal organs of the United Nations. The Panel will submit its recommendations before the beginning of the 59th session of the UN General Assembly in 2004 for consideration by member States.

The Government has, in all its recent high-level bilateral interactions, taken up India's case for permanent membership in the UN Security Council.