

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:679
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2002
UNIFIED COMMAND OF ARMED FORCES
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the three wings of the Armed Forces have been unified recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Unified Force would have the necessary administrative and financial powers which were hitherto not available to them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Government have taken any decision regarding the appointment of Chief of Defence Staff; and
- (g) if so, the time by when it is likely to be appointed?

A N S W E R

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): Neither have the three wings of the Armed Forces viz. the Army, the Navy and the Air Force been unified nor is there any such proposal under consideration of the Government at present. However, based on the recommendation of the Group of Ministers constituted to reform the National Security System in its entirety, joint structures such as `Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff` and Joint `Andaman & Nicobar Command` have been established with a view to ensure the most optimal utilization of the available resources. Further, higher Administrative and Financial powers have also been delegated to the three Services to ensure expeditious decision making. These newly established structures have also been vested with the higher authority at par with their counterparts in the three Services.

(f) & (g): The Group of Ministers had amongst others recommended creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff. Pending wider consultations with the political parties, a final decision in this regard has not been taken as yet.