

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3247

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2012

APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADORS HIGH COMMISSIONERS

Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there exists any prescribed selection procedure for appointment of ambassadors and high commissioners to various countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the fresh steps taken by the Government to make public the selection procedure for appointment of ambassadors/high commissioners to various countries?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Heads of Mission – Ambassadors and High Commissioners – are selected in keeping with India's priorities, the requirements in a particular Diplomatic Mission, and their overall suitability including experience, seniority and regional and professional expertise. The President approves the appointments of Ambassadors/High Commissioners based on the recommendations of the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister and the appointment is also subject to the agreement of the receiving State.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The appointments of Heads of Mission are announced as soon as the procedures as laid down in (a) & (b) above are complete. However, making the process of particular appointments public could prejudicially affect India's relations with other States.