

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3290
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013
CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Kargil Review Committee recommended the appointment of the institution of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has held any consultations so far on the establishment of CDS with relevant stakeholders including the Chiefs of the three Services, political parties, etc;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the current status of the recommendations and the time by which a decision on this important issue is likely to be taken?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (e): The Government constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) on 17th April, 2000 to review the national security system in its entirety and in particular, to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and to formulate specific proposals for its implementation. The GoM's report on 'Reforming the National Security System' was presented to the Government in February 2001 in which it was, inter alia, recommended to create the institution of Chief of Defence Staff. It was decided that Government would take a view on the establishment of the CDS after consulting various political parties. The process of the consultations was initiated in 2006, with Raksha Mantri writing to the leaders of all major political parties to obtain their views on the creation of the post of CDS. Subsequently the political parties have been reminded to provide their views. Views of some political parties are still awaited. A decision on the matter would be taken after completion of the ongoing consultations.