

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6467  
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013  
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to make the National Development Council a constitutional body on the lines of the Inter-State Council;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far, in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has evolved an institutionalised mechanism on Centre-State and inter-State consultations as recommended by various commissions on Centre-State relations from time to time; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a): No, Madam.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) to (d): The Government of India had set up first Commission on Centre-State Relations on 09.06.1983 under the Chairmanship of Justice R.S. Sarkaria, a retired judge of the Supreme Court to review the existing arrangements between the Centre and the States. The Commission in its report submitted in 1988 has made 247 recommendations on various aspects of the Centre-State Relations.

The Sarkaria Commission under Chapter 9 of its Report on Inter-Governmental Council under Article 263 of the Constitution has recommended that a permanent Inter-State Council called the Inter-Governmental Council (IGC) should be set up. The Government accepted the recommendation of the Sarkaria Commission and notified the establishment of the Inter-State Council (ISC) through a Presidential Notification No. IV/11017/3/90 CSR dated 28.05.1990 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister with a mandate limited to Clauses (b) and (c) of Article 263 of the Constitution. The other members of the Council include Chief Ministers of States, Chief Ministers/ Administrators of Union Territories and six Ministers of Cabinet rank in the Union Council of Ministers.

The role of the ISC has been reviewed from time to time during the last decade. The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution under the Chairmanship of Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah (2002) has observed that the Commission, while endorsing the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission, recommends that in resolving problems and coordinating policy and action, the Union as well as the State should more effectively utilize the forum of ISC.

Further, with a view to ensuring more harmonious and healthier relationship between the Centre and the States in future as well as for further strengthening of the third tier of governance, the Government had set up the second Commission on Centre-State Relations on 27.04.2007 under the Chairmanship of Justice M.M. Punchhi, a retired Chief Justice of India. The second Commission on Centre-State Relations has submitted its Report on 31.03.2010 and has made 273 recommendations. The Inter-State Council Secretariat, in consultation with the stakeholders viz. Ministries/Departments, State Governments/ Union Territories, places the views of the Union/States/Union Territories before the Inter-State Council for consideration.