

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:687

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2014

SEPARATE DIVISION FOR CENTRE STATE RELATIONS

Kumar Dr. Virendra ;Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao;Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has announced a new division in the Ministry of External Affairs for Centre-State relations aiming to streamline foreign infrastructure and develop coordination with State Governments;
- (b) if so, the complete details thereof along with the responsibilities assigned to the new division; and
- (c) the manner in which the new division will function and the benefits likely to be derived in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (c) The States Division has been recently created in the Ministry to coordinate with States and Union Territories for further facilitation of their efforts to promote exports, tourism and attract more overseas investment and expertise. The objective of the Division is to coordinate facilitation of efforts in these areas between our Mission/Post(s) and State/Union Territories Governments as well as foreign diplomatic and trade missions in India. It also aims to assist States and Union Territories by sharing with them, where required, this Ministry's experience and expertise through training and capacity building in areas relating to external linkages relating to trade, investment, cultural and other such areas. The Division is headed by a Joint Secretary and will help better coordination and facilitation of the efforts of the States and Union Territories in promoting their linkages abroad.