

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1872
ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023**

NEW DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

1872 SMT. VANDANA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has plans to establish a Department of International Law specifically committed towards framing/ approving/negotiating the provisions of international covenants /multilateral/bilateral treaties or agreements;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the anticipated timeline for the commencement of its operations; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a) to (c):The Government has no proposal to set up Department of International Law.

As regards, practice concerning negotiation and conclusion of international treaties and related aspects, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) *vide* letter dated 02th April, 2018 has circulated a revised Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) with respect to entering into MoU's/Agreements with foreign countries.

As per the SoP, the MEA is overall in-charge of international treaty making activities. The administrative Ministry is the nodal agency for preparing the drafts, consultations and negotiation in any bilateral treaties formalities. As regards, Multilateral treaties are concerned, they are mostly negotiated in international conferences. After the negotiation and finalisation of a treaty, the administrative Ministry after due consultation with MEA, moves the Cabinet Note for taking approval of the Union Cabinet.
