

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2625
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.01.2018

STRENGTH OF DIPLOMATS

2625. SHRI VENKATESH BABU T.G.:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's diplomatic strength has been greatly reduced over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on India's foreign relations with the countries of the world;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to augment the strength of diplomats;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) The total strength of IFS cadre as on 19th November, 2017 is 941. However, in view of increased commitments over years the Ministry has undertaken several steps to augment the strength of diplomats. There has been an increase in the number of intake of direct recruitment of IFS officers through the Civil Services Exams. In addition, officers from different Ministries/Departments of Government of India and State Governments are being taken on deputation. In order to serve India's national interests, the training programs for new recruits as well as serving diplomats have been revamped. Concrete steps have also been taken to augment the pool of officers trained in foreign languages. All efforts are being made to meet the diplomatic commitments as envisaged.
