

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-5043
ANSWERED ON- 31/03/2023

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIALISTS AS TRADE DIPLOMATS AT EMBASSIES

5043. SHRI RITESH PANDEY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Government is considering prioritizing documentation of State practice and creating a database available in the public domain for scholars to understand India's stand on foreign/global issues and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government is considering roping in international law scholars and academia to equip MEA with a better understanding of various issues on multilateral forums as experts, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating the creation of an international law legal department under the MEA to critically use international law to support India's foreign policy, judicial cases, negotiations and strategic decisions, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government plans to appoint specialists as trade diplomats at embassies to manage and develop the trade development of India, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a) The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) publishes the 'Ministry of External Affairs Annual Report', which is a comprehensive document that details the policies of India in the diplomatic sphere, and their implementation. The Annual Report is tabled in Parliament, and also uploaded on MEA website. Annual Reports published by the Ministry from 1948-49 onwards are available in the public domain.

(b & c) Recognizing the need to develop specialized skills in international law and multilateral legal framework, the Government had set up a dedicated Legal and Treaties Division in the Ministry of External Affairs. This Division, whose work has expanded and diversified over the years, is the nodal point for issues related to international law, including treaty making and treaty negotiations.

(d) The Ministry of External Affairs appoints dedicated officers with suitable language skills in Mission/Post abroad who are designated as 'Commercial Representatives' to manage issues relating to trade, technology and investment promotion, liaison with investment agencies, and provide periodical reports on economic and commercial developments in the host country.
