

- (v) The Information Technology Act, 2000 as amended by the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 has been enforced with effect from 27.10.2009. The Act provides legal framework to address the issues connected with security breaches of information technology infrastructure.
- (vi) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats and countermeasures on regular basis.
- (d) Yes, Sir.

Making NDC a constitutional body

387. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to make the National Development Council (NDC) a constitutional body on the line of Inter-State Council;
- (b) if so, the time by when the concrete action is likely to be taken in the matter;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to have an institutionalised mechanism of Union-State Consultations as recommended by various Commissions including Sarkaria Commission, Venkatachaliah Commission and MM Punchhi Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government, at present.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(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 recommendations made by the second Commission on Centre-State Relations are under examination in the Inter-State Council Secretariat in consultation with the stakeholders viz. Ministries/ Departments, State Governments/ Union Territories before it is placed before the Inter-State Council.

Home Ministers level talks between India and Bangladesh

388. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh has held Home Ministers level talks in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of various issues raised and discussed during the said meeting;