

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3899**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 06<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2022/ CHAITRA 16, 1944 (SAKA)**

**REGIONAL COUNCILS**

**3899 # SHRI JUGALSINH LOKHANDWALA:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

**(a) the structure of Regional Councils constituted under the States Reorganization Act, 1956;**

**(b) whether State Governments propose agenda items for the meetings of Regional Councils;**

**(c) the objectives of these meetings; and**

**(d) whether discussion on such agenda items helps in development of States and improvement of law and order situation in States?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

**(a): Five Zonal Councils, viz., Northern Zonal Council, Central Zonal Council, Eastern Zonal Council, Western Zonal Council, and Southern Zonal Council have been set up under the States Reorganization Act, 1956.**

**The States Reorganisation Act 1956 provides that the Zonal Councils shall consist of the following members:**

- i. A Union Minister to be nominated by the President.**
- ii. the Chief Minister of each of the States included in the Zone and two other Ministers of each such State to be nominated by the Governor**

**and if there is no Council of Ministers in any such State, three members from that State to be nominated by the President;**

**iii. where any Union Territory is included in the Zone, not more than two members from each such territory to be nominated by the President;**

**Meetings of the Zonal Councils are chaired by Union Home Minister.**

**(b): Yes, Sir.**

**(c) & (d): Under sub-Section (1) of the Section 21 of the Act, each Zonal Council shall be an advisory body and may discuss any matter in which some or all of the States represented in that Council, or the Union and one or more of the States represented in that Council, have a common interest and advise the Central Government and the Government of each State concerned as to the action to be taken on any such matter.**

**The meetings of the Zonal Councils and their Standing Committees take place in cordial and amicable atmosphere and decisions on the Issues are taken after due and detailed deliberations thus, promoting the spirit of co-operative federalism.**

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