

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1872  
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2002  
TASK FORCES ON INDIRECT TAX  
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

**Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the main aims behind constitution of Task Force on Indirect Taxes; and
- (b) the details regarding the terms and conditions alongwith the composition of this Task Force and the procedure followed for nominating the members to serve in this Task Force?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN):

(a) The main objective of the constitution of the Task Force on Indirect Taxes is to take advantage of information technology and bring the indirect tax systems and procedures at par with the best international practices and thus, encourage compliance and reduce transaction costs.

(b) The terms of reference of the Task Force are as follows:

(i) The review of the Customs and Central Excise law and procedures and recommendations on their simplification, reducing cost of compliance and facilitating voluntary compliance.

(ii) Recommendations relating to increased use of automation for a user friendly and transparent tax administration.

(iii) The review of the statutorily prescribed records, documents and returns including periodicity) and suggestions on their utility and simplification.

(iv) Recommendations to provide for in-built mechanism in the procedures for time bound disposal of matters.

(v) Any other recommendation on different aspects of legal provisions and administration to facilitate the tax payers and improve compliance.

The terms and conditions of the Task Force are as follows:

(i) The Task Force should furnish to the Government a Draft Consultation Paper containing its recommendations in 45 days i.e. by 21.10.2002. The same will be made available to the public for feedback and comments by 1.11.2002 which shall be considered by the Task Force and a Final Report submitted to Government by 30.11.2002.

(ii) The Task Force is empowered to interact with departmental officials, trade interests and individuals and visit field formations as it may choose.

(iii) The non-official Task Force members would be entitled to TA/DA as per norms.

The composition of the Task Force is as follows:

**STATEMENT**

1.	Dr.V.L Kelkar, Adviser to Minister of Finance and Company Affairs	Chairman
2.	Dr.Ashok Lahiri, Delhi.	Member
3.	Prof.Jayanta Roy, Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata.	-do-
4.	Shri Sunil Kant Munjal, Hero Cycles, Ludhiana, representing CII.	-do-
5.	Shri Sanjay Bhatia, Hindustan Tin Works, Ghaziabad, representing PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry.	-do-

6.	Shri K.S. Suresh, ITC Limited, Kolkata, representing FICCI.	-do-
7.	Shri Nihal Kothari, Hindustan Lever Limited, Mumbai, representing ASSOCHAM	-do-
8.	Shri Y.P. Suri, Rex Enterprises, Delhi, representing FASSI.	-do-
9.	Shri K.S. Ravishankar, Bangalore, representing NASSCOM.	-do-
10.	Shri Deepak Puri, Moser Baer, Delhi, representing Electronics and Software Export Promotion Council,	-do-
11.	Shri Gautam Ray, Joint Secretary, C.B.E.C., New Delhi.	-do-
12.	Shri S.M. Bhatnagar, Director,	Member
13.	C.B.E.C., New Delhi.	Secretary

The procedure followed for constituting the Task Force was to ask the major Chambers of Trade and Industry Associations to nominate their representatives.