

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1083
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
FOREIGN SECRETARY VISITING OFFICES OF POLITICAL PARTIES
Khanduri AVSM,Maj.Gen.(Retd.) Bhuwan Chandra

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Foreign Secretary on being appointed to that post visits offices of political parties;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) if not, the names of the offices of political parties visited by the present Foreign Secretary immediately after his appointment;
- (d) whether protocol was followed in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (f) Foreign Secretary plays an important role in formulation and implementation of foreign policy. In performance of these duties, he meets leaders of various political parties, Members of Parliament, other high dignitaries and members of civil society in India and abroad to seek their views and explain government's viewpoint.

The present Foreign Secretary continued the above practice and visited the leaders of the CPI(M), who are an important part of the UPA alliance, the BJP, the main opposition party and others.