

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2304
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
INVOLVEMENT OF PEOPLE IN FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to involve people in matters of foreign policy as reported in the Times of India dated June 14, 2007;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the initiative taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes. To inform and engage the public on foreign policy initiatives, a Public Diplomacy Division was created in MEA in 2006. Its functions are to take the message of India's foreign policy to different sections of civil society, NGOs, academia, think-tanks, business and industry and others across the country and abroad.