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KOLKATA: The department of public sector enterprises, once a high profile department under the ministry of heavy industries, may become part of the ministry of corporate affairs in future.

after an interactive session organised by AMCHAM members in Kolkata on Saturday, Union Minister of Corporate affairs Salman Khurshid said a proposal to bring department of PSEs under its control has been mooted recently by the ministry of heavy industries. He said the minister of heavy industries Vilasrao Deshmukh had informally presented the proposal to the corporate affairs ministry recently.

"The department of PSE has become more of a post office department looking into the accounts of PSE with most of the central public sector undertaking now under respective ministries. So the ministry of heavy industries wants to bring it under MCA," the union minister of corporate affairs added.

Mr Khurshid pointed out that the UPA government is emphasising more on better co-ordination between ministries so that the proposal of bringing PSE under MCA can be discussed. As of now it is only an informal proposal.

The minister also indicated that it is toying with the idea of corporate social responsibility credit in line with carbon credit.

"Why cant we have a mechanism where a company with good CSR and governance track record could be rewarded," he questioned. He argued that there could be some mechanism where companies doing good CSR activities gets a credit which can be traded in the market. "It would be a way to reward good corporate citizen," he pointed out.

Commenting on the proposed new company bill, Mr Khurshid said that the new corporate law will be introduced in 2010. "The parliamentary committee will take a view on the draft proposal soon. Then it can be implemented," he said.

