

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

The Ministry of External Affairs are aware of the C & AG's draft paras on the following issues contained in the 'Pioneer' of 3rd July 1998. These are:

- (a) Stay of Consuls General in Vladivostok at Hotel on first arrival for more than three years.
- (b) Accommodations provided 'beyond entitlement' in respect of two officers in P.M.I., Geneva.

(a) 2. In August, 1996, the Audit Officer, London had raised an objection on the prolonged stay of Consul General in Vladivostok who had to stay in a 'hotel' (In fact, a transit accommodation) on first arrival for opening of the Post and had to continue staying in the accommodation from 9th September 1992 to 31st May 1996, due to non-availability of proper regular accommodation suitable for the representational functions of a Consul General. Ministry of External Affairs, in view of the special situations prevailing in the CIS countries, after the break-up of the former Soviet Union and the problems connected with the opening of new Mission/Post, concurred in the proposal. Even when the Officer could shift to a regular accommodation, the accommodation was far below the entitlement, not in keeping with the representational obligations and at a lower rent than paid for the subordinate Officers. An accommodation of his entitlement, if at all available, would have cost a minimum of US \$ 4,200/-p.m. at the rate offered by the local Foreign Officer Representation, which itself works out to US \$ 1,84,800/- for 44 months.

3. As Ministry was aware of the prolonged stay of the Consul General in the hotel (transit accommodation), the Ministry would be approaching C & AG with the facts and recommendations that the para be dropped.

(b) 4. During the audit of accounts of the Permanent Mission of India in Geneva, for the period 1.11.95 to 30.9.96, the Audit had raised

an objection to the hiring of accommodation measuring 334sq. mtrs. (not 334 sq. kms. as mentioned in the news item) in respect of the then Counsellor and accommodation measuring 328 sq. mts (not 328 sq. kms. as mentioned in the news item) in respect of another Counsellor, stating that the accommodations were almost twice the area as per their entitlement. Accommodations provided to the two officers in PMI, Geneva were hired with the approval of Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of External Affairs respectively. While C & AG's para is based on the space norms, the rentals paid (S. Fr. 6,300/-) in each case, were well within the range of accommodations hired for other officers of the same rank (S. Fr. 6,100/- to S. Fr. 6,900/- p.m.). The accommodation, in respect of one Officer was surrendered on his transfer. The other accommodation, fact, had only 168.4 sq.mtrs. of usable area, the rest being in the basement which could be used only for storage purposes.

5. C & AG has already been apprised to the facts and requested to drop the draft para in view of the clarifications provided.

Discussions on Sharing of Ganga Water

4050. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2505 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th July, 1998 and state:

(a) whether the question of sharing Ganga water with Bangladesh, which is adversely affecting the assured target supply of 40,000 cusecs of water to Calcutta Port, also came up for discussion with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh during her recent visit to India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) The sharing of Ganga waters with Bangladesh was among subjects discussed by the Prime Minister with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh during the latter's recent visit to India. Expressing satisfaction over the adequacy of flows at Farakka during the last lean season, which had contributed to smooth

implementation of the Ganga Waters Treaty, the Prime Minister, reiterated Government's resolve to continue to abide by India's treaty commitments.

Ban on Employment of Indians in Saudi Arabia

4051. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Saudi Arabia has imposed a de-facto ban on Indian nationals in the matter of employment in that country; and

(b) if so, whether Government would take immediate diplomatic initiatives to restore normalcy in view of the fact that the future employment of lakhs of workers depend of friendly relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Saudi Arabia has not imposed any ban on the recruitment of Indians for employment in that country. Indian nationals continue to be recruited by Saudi Arabian companies as before.

(b) Does not arise.

भारतीय दूतावास के व्यय में वृद्धि

4052. श्री बिषनपार्ई हरीभाई शुक्ल: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या विदेश-स्थित भारतीय दूतावासों का कार्यभार-व्यय पिछले दो वर्षों में बढ़ रहा है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो वर्ष 1989-90 से आज तक इस वृद्धि का औसत-वार और वर्ष-वार औसत क्या है;

(ग) उन दूतावासों के नाम क्या हैं, जिनके व्यय की प्रतिशतता को सर्वाधिक पाया गया है;

(घ) इसकी क्या कारण हैं; और

(ङ) क्या सरकार ने इस संबंध में कोई विस्तृत अध्ययन कराया है?

हिंदी मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुंधरा राजे):

(क) जी, हाँ,

(ख) से (ङ) 1993-94 से 1997-98 वित्त वर्षों के औसत-वार, मिनट-वार व्यय की सूचना अनुपलब्ध नहीं है।

गई है। [देखिए परिशिष्ट 184, अनुपत्र सं-99] 1989-90 से 1992-93 वित्तीय वर्षों के व्यय के ब्यौरे उपलब्ध नहीं हैं क्योंकि सिविल लेखा नियमावली के प्रावधानों के अनुसार मुख्य लेखा नियंत्रक के कार्यालय में केवल पांच वर्षों की अवधि के समेकित व्यय संचित दस्तावेजों को ही रखा जाता है।

हालांकि सभी मिशनों में व्यय के लिए मार्गदर्शन एक समान है फिर भी कुछ मिशनों का व्यय कुल योग का उच्च प्रतिशत है; ऐसा अनेक कारणों से है जैसे अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों की अधिक संख्या, विदेश प्रचार पर आवश्यकताओं में बढ़ोतरी, उच्च किराया, कार्यालय उपकरणों और संचार पद्धतियों का उन्नयन, चल रहे नवीकरण कार्य पर व्यय, विशेष आकस्मिकताएं आदि।

मिशन/केंद्रों में किसी प्रकार के अत्याधिक व्यय अथवा अपव्यय से बचने के लिए अधिक ध्यान दिया जाता है। विदेश स्थित हमारे राजदूतावासों को विस्तृत और विशिष्ट अनुदेश जारी किए गए हैं कि वे इस प्रकार के क्षेत्र तय करें जहां मिशन/केंद्र के कार्यकरण में उसकी कार्यकुशलता पर समझौता किए बिना सख्त नियंत्रण करने से व्यय में प्रभावी रूप से कमी की जा सकती है। मिशनों से प्राप्त प्रस्तावों और व्यय के आकड़ों की सावधानीपूर्वक जांच की जाती है और उन नाजुक क्षेत्रों जहां व्यय में वृद्धि होने की सम्भावना है, को तय किया गया है तथा उनके व्यय संबंधी आकड़ों की नियमित रूप से निगरानी की जाती है और समय-समय पर सुधारात्मक उपायों को करने की सलाह दी जाती है। मुख्य लेखा नियंत्रक के कार्यालय द्वारा व्यय की परच-लेखा परीक्षा की जाती है और यह भारत के नियंत्रक तथा महालेखा परीक्षक द्वारा सांख्यिक लेखा परीक्षा के अधीन भी है।

ये उपाय तंत्रों की प्राप्ति के लिए सामान्यतया सफल हैं तथा व्यय को नियंत्रित करने में प्रभावी हैं। तथापि, यह एक सतत प्रक्रिया है।

Pakistani Firing on Civilian Areas

4053. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan forces are continuing unprovoked firing on civilian areas along Indian border for last many months;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan has been warned to stop it; and

(c) if so, the response of Pak Government in this regard?