

exchange, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite these instructions, foreign tours are being permitted by the Ministries/Departments without proper scrutiny with regard to their importance and purpose;

(c) whether there is any increase in the number of official delegations for foreign tours during the last three years, if so, what are the details thereof stating the reasons, therefore; and

(d) whether there is any proposal for further tightening the norms for undertaking foreign tours by official delegations in view of the depletions of foreign exchange resources and if not, what are the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (d) All proposals for foreign tours of Government Officers are examined carefully by the Screening Committee of Secretaries headed by the Cabinet Secretary before they are recommended to the Minister incharge of the administrative Department for final approval. Instructions have also been issued from time to time for ensuring utmost economy in the expenditure on travel including foreign travel. These instructions envisage that Budget provision for travel should be split into external travel and internal travel and the expenditure under each of these items should be regularly monitored. While examining proposals for deputation abroad, the justifications for the deputation is scrutinised from the essentiality angle and also taking into account the expenditure already incurred out of the Budget provision specifically earmarked for foreign travel. There had been no significant increase in the number of foreign tour, during the last three years. Since the existing instructions and procedure for regulating deputation/delegation abroad ensure utmost economy in expenditure on foreign tours, there is no proposal to issue any fresh instructions in the matter.

Allocation of Budget amount for Ministry of Finance and its subordinate offices

1132. SHRI SHAMIM HASHIM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the revised total budget allocated to the Ministry of Finance and its attached and subordinate offices separately for the financial year 1988-89;

(b) what is the amount spent up to 31st December, 1988 and from 1st January, 1989 to 31st March, 1989 (month-wise) by the Ministry and its attached and subordinate offices separately; and

(c) what amount has been spent on purchase of furniture, carpet, books and other furnishing items like coolers, air-conditioners besides staff cars upto 31st December, 1988 and from 1st January, 1989 to 31st March, 1989 by the Ministry and its attached and subordinate offices, separately, monthwise and itemwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed. [See Appendix CL, Annexure No. 55]

(c) The information is not centrally available nor is it practicable to collect the same within a reasonable time as the purchases of various items of furnitures furnishings etc. are being made by various offices located in far flung areas of the country under the powers delegated to them.

Launching of prosecution against M/s. ITC Ltd. for 'Brand law' violation in Respect of their famous cigarette 'Now'

1133. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH
LATHER:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Board of Excise and Customs proposes to launch