

{[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. RAGHU-RAMIAH): (a) and (b) The required information is given in the attached statement.] [See Appendix LXVI, Annexure No. 10.]

'P' FORM

133. DR. (MRS.) MANGLA DEVI TALWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any rules under which 'P' form will not be given to Ministers and others going abroad; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Travel by Ministers, either of the Central Government or of State Governments, can be broadly of two types:

(a) Where the proposed travel is at Government expense and foreign exchange is required to be released from India. In such cases, the travel proposals have to be formulated after given full justification regarding the need for the foreign travel. Such requests are then considered on merits and where the travel proposal is found justified, foreign exchange at prescribed rates is released.

(b) Travel proposals of Ministers could also be on the basis of invitations and hospitality of foreign Governments. In such cases, no release of foreign exchange from India is involved, except for a small amount for meeting incidental expenses, and only passage clearance is normally sought. In respect of Ministers, such

{[] English translation.

travel proposals are examined in the context of the following criteria:

1. Hospitality/invitation abroad should be only from a foreign government and not from non-governmental sources like societies and private bodies, etc.

2. Passage costs should be paid by us and not by the hosts.

3. The invitation should be routed through the Ministry of External Affairs as per normal protocol requirements.

4. Foreign visits of Ministers should be primarily for work connected with their office or with their official responsibilities and position.

2. Travel proposals are cleared if they are in accordance with the above policy.

3. Travel proposals from others, as mentioned in the Question, would cover proposals from persons other than Ministers. These would include students, businessmen, persons going abroad to attend Conferences and persons who go abroad on institutional or personal hospitality of the acceptable type. Such requests are considered in the context of our existing policy regulating travel of these various types and where proposals are in accordance with these policies, release of foreign exchange or passage clearance, as may be required, is granted.

SELLING OF B.I.C. SHARES BY THE L.I.C.

134. SHRIMATI SARLA BHADAU-RIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the L.I. C. is now selling its holdings in the B.I.C. to some businessmen of Calcutta; and

(b) if so, to whom these shares have been sold and at what prices?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.