

O/o the AG (LBA & A), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

Sl. No.	Name of post	Sanctioned Strength	Person in Position	Held in abeyance	Vacancy	Remarks
1	Sr. A.O	9	8	0	1	
2	AO	1	2	0	-1	
3	AAO	26	23	0	3	
4	Sr. Auditor	6	8	0	-2	
5	Auditor	2	0	0	2	
6	Clerk/Typist	2	0	0	2	
TOTAL		46	41	0	5	

Investigation into bugs planted in Ministry's office

1616. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has seen newspaper report titled "IB asks CBDT why it hired private snoops to investigate 'bugs planted' in FM Office", appearing on 27 June-2011 in Mail Today, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the episode of bugs planted in Finance Minister's office;

(c) the reasons for hiring a private agency by the former CBDT Chairman instead of reporting the matter to IB/RAW; and (d) what action Government proposes to take against the former CBDT Chairman for engaging private detective agency at exorbitant prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM):
(a) to (d) Security audits are periodically conducted in the Ministry of Finance and the Finance Minister's Office. One such routine security check was conducted on 4th September, 2010 by the Investigation Directorate of the CBDT, which engaged the services of an expert, with domain

knowledge of the subject. During this check, adhesive like substance was noticed at various locations. This was brought to the notice of the Prime Minister by the Union Finance Minister in September, 2010. The Prime Minister directed the Intelligence Bureau to conduct a secret enquiry into the matter. The Intelligence Bureau carried out an inspection of the relevant premises. Adhesive patches were found stuck at a few places. The adhesive patches were subjected to chemical/forensic analysis, which revealed that the substance contained contents comparable with the contents of chewing gum. Physical examination of the recovered substance did not reveal any sign or mark suggestive of any device having been attached thereto. Thereafter, all these premises have been subjected to regular screening. During these exercises, no devices have been detected.

Measures to avoid unwanted expenditure

1617. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken to tighten expenditure plans by avoiding unwanted expenditure in various Government departments and PSUs for during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Ministry of Finance has issued instructions containing measures for expenditure management in 2011-12 on 2nd May, 2011. The Ministry has also issued instructions on 11th July, 2011 containing economy measures on seminars/conference, purchase of vehicles, foreign travel, Creation of Posts, Consultancy Assignment, observance of discipline in fiscal transfers to States/PSU/Autonomous Bodies and on Balanced Pace of Expenditure. These instructions are also applicable to autonomous bodies funded by Government of India. Economy instructions have been issued in respect of PSL by Department of Public Enterprises on 12th August, 2011.

Contraction of currency by RBI

†1618. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has tried contraction of currency 10 times in the country during last 15 months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.