

Control of private travel agents

184. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any control on Private Travel Agents who offer foreign tours;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government has any proposal to make any fresh guidelines to be issued to Private Travel Agents in view of the recent happenings in Egypt and Mongolia; and

(d) the measures taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (d) The information is being sought and a reply to the question shall be tabled in the House after obtaining information from the concerned Ministries.

Declining foreign exchange reserves

185. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's foreign exchange reserves have gone down considerably in the past few months;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for steep fall in foreign exchange reserves;

(c) whether Government has since made any efforts to maintain its foreign exchange reserves; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The country's foreign exchange reserves have declined to US\$ 288.8 billion at end July 2012 from US\$ 292.8 billion at end January 2012.

(b) The change in foreign currency assets occurs mainly on account of buying and selling of foreign exchange by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the foreign exchange market in India. Besides, income arising out of the deployment of foreign exchange reserves, external aid receipt of the Central Government, movements of the US dollar against other currencies in which foreign currency