

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4272
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2002
OFFICE EXPENSES
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by various departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under his ministry during each of the last three years on publicity, advertisements, receptions, refreshments, inaugurations, seminars, conferences, tours (including foreign), telephone bills including STD and ISD calls, electricity bills (especially air conditioner's and cooler's) and other office expenses separately under above heads;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch any drive for economy in expenditure under above heads;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA)

(a): The Ministry of Agro & Rural Industries was created on 1st September, 2001. The budgetary requirement of this newly created Ministry continues to be met out of office expenses budget of the erstwhile Ministry of SSI & ARI. No separate budget on this account is earmarked for this Ministry. There is no Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) or Departments under the Ministry of ARI.

(b) to (d): In order to curb wasteful expenditure, instructions for austerity in Government expenditure are issued by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure to all the Ministries/Departments from time to time. The austerity measures include ban on the creation of posts, reduction in the number of sanctioned posts, restrictions on the filling up of vacant posts, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehicles, restrictions on foreign travel and entertainment/ hospitality expenses, reduction in per diem allowance for travel abroad etc.

The instructions are followed by the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries also. Besides, major recommendations of the Expenditure Reform Commission (ERC) in this connection for the Ministry of Agro & Rural Industries have also been implemented in this regard.