

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5545
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2003
AUSTERITY MEASURES
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are taking austerity measures in strongest terms;
- (b) if so, whether it is a fact that expenditure on foreign tours of Ministers and delegation has increased manifold in 2002-2003 as compared to 2001-2002; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c): There has been a marginal increase in the expenditure on the foreign tours of members of the Union Council of Ministers. While the expenditure on this count was Rs.27.81 crores in 2001-02, it was Rs.28.34 crores in 2002-03. This marginal increase is mainly attributable to increase in the air fare.

All proposals relating to the visits abroad are carefully considered at various levels in the Government and only those visits which are absolutely essential are permitted with the approval of the competent authority.