

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6113  
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003  
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 bills) and other office expenses separately under above heads;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANJAY GAUTAM)

(a): The Ministry of Agro and 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 Ministry of SSI. No separate budget on this account is earmarked for this Ministry. There are 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., and these instructions are being followed in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries.