

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DISINVESTMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4748
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003
OFFICE EXPENSES
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount incurred on publicity, advertisement, hospitality, catering, opening ceremonies, seminars, conferences, tours (including foreign visits), STD and ISD telephone bills, electricity bill especially the electricity bills of air-conditioners and coolers and other office expenses in various departments and undertakings under his Ministry during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch any drive to curtail the expenses on the said items;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (MR. SHOURIE):

(a) The Ministry of Disinvestment has not incurred any expenditure on publicity, opening ceremonies during the last three years. While this Ministry has been participating in seminars, workshops organized by bilateral/multi-lateral organizations, no expenditure has been incurred by the Ministry itself. It has, in addition to mandated official publications, compiled and published booklets on disinvestment procedures for dissemination of the same to the opinion makers and the general public. Expenditure on electricity bills for air conditioners and coolers is borne directly by the Central Public Works Department. The expenditure under the heads Travel Allowance (foreign & domestic) and Office Expenses (includes among other items, expenditure on telephones-STD & ISD- and catering/hospitality) and publicity for the last three years is as under:â€”

(Rs. in Lakh)

Head	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Office Expenses	68.65	52.84	60.00
Publication	6.33	11.47	11.47
Travel Allowance (Foreign)	0.95	6.00	10.11
Travel Allowance (Domestic)	2.38	7.78	13.11

There is no department, subordinate office or undertaking under the Ministry of Disinvestment. The information relating to the Disinvestment Commission is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Disinvestment was formed in December, 1999. The Ministry has been observing economy in all respects to restrict the expenditure to the minimum.