

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3121

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2000

FOREIGN VISITS OF MINISTERS

SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI;VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have imposed ban on the foreign visits of journalists accompanying Ministers;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of journalists went on foreign visits with the Union Ministers during the last three years and the total expenditure incurred thereon; and
- (d) the persons eligible to go on foreign visits accompanying Union Ministers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR):

- (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Instructions have been issued bringing it to the notice of all Ministries/Departments not to refer proposals for the visits of journalists to accompany the Ministers on visits abroad. This has been done keeping in view the need for economy in public expenditure and also the fact that the function of giving publicity to Ministers` visits can be performed by Indian Missions abroad.
- (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.
- (d) Apart from the officers, the Minister can take one person from his personal staff on visits abroad.