

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3364
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
ALLEGED MISUSE OF FUNDS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the latest report of the CAG has slammed Rs. 41 lakh, spent on furniture and furnishings for the foreign secretary residence during 2000-03 as reported in the Times of India dated May 9, 2005;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has enquired into the alleged irregularities;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (d) the persons held responsible for the same;
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to discourage such avoidable expenditure in future;
- (f) whether any guidelines already exist in this regard; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for violation of these guidelines?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) to (g) In July 1987, the Government decided to designate 3 Circular Road as the official residence of the Foreign Secretary and the Ministry of External Affairs was permitted to furnish the entertainment area of this designated house. This special dispensation was provided taking into account the Foreign Secretary's special responsibilities of receiving and entertaining senior diplomats and foreign dignitaries at his official residence. No scale of furniture has been prescribed. Accordingly, the entertainment area of the residence was furnished keeping in view the functional needs. Hence, as such, no irregularity or violation of the norms was committed. However, in the absence of a specifically prescribed scale, the audit had raised an objection which was included in the CAG's Report. The Ministry has replied to /explained all the issues raised by this Report to the concerned authorities.