

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2424
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2014
FOREIGN ALLOWANCES FOR DIPLOMATS
Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has withdrawn its proposal for higher foreign allowance for diplomats;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of foreign allowance being paid at present for the different scales of IFS officers, grade-wise; and
- (d) the total expenses incurred by the Government on account of the same during the last three years and the current year year-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

(a) & (b) There is no proposal by the Ministry for higher foreign allowance for India-based officials in Indian Missions and Posts abroad. The Ministry has been in correspondence with the Ministry of Finance to address some technical issues raised by the latter related to annual review of indexation of foreign allowance.

(c) Under the Indexation Scheme being implemented since January 1, 1998, foreign allowance of India-based officials in our Missions and Posts abroad is determined as per a prescribed basket of goods and services extrapolated on the basis of the United Nations Retail Price Index (UNRPI) for different stations. This is reviewed annually by a joint team from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Finance.

(d) The Ministry does not maintain a separate head of account for booking expenditure solely on account of foreign allowance as allowances are drawn along with basic pay including grade pay of the officials concerned. Expenditure on account of salary, including foreign allowance, for the last three financial years and the current year, in rupees crore, are as under:

2010-2011:	669.37
2011-2012:	742.57
2012-2013:	884.05
2013-2014:	822.16

(Upto December 2013)