## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA EXTERNAL AFFAIRS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3681 ANSWERED ON:12.08.2015 Losses Made by Indian Missions Abroad Somaiya Dr. Kirit

## Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has suffered exchequer loss due to fictitious expenditure, fake bills, corrupt financial practices, etc. by the officials in various Indian Missions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether fictitious transaction of Rs. 5.10 crore by Indian Mission in Buenos Aires (Argentina) between 2008 and 2012 has come to the notice of the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government against the officials of Indian Missions who are found to be responsible for corrupt practices and financial irregularities?

## **Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

- (a) & (b) Procedural lapses, if any, on financial matters by any of the officials of Indian Missions abroad are investigated carefully by the Ministry and action taken as per rules.
- (c) to (e) A high-level team in the Ministry had conducted an enquiry into the case. A separate account was opened by the Embassy of India in Buenos Aires to facilitate the activities of Indian Export Promotion Councils in Argentina as the local laws did not permit the Councils to open bank accounts. The high-level team had established with reasonable certainty that there was no misappropriation or loss of public funds on account of operation of a separate bank account.