

अवर सचिव
UNDER SECRETARY



उप-राष्ट्रपति सचिवालय
VICE-PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT
नई दिल्ली/NEW DELHI - 110011
TEL.: 23016344/23016422 FAX: 23018124

05th February, 2013

Shri Manish Chauhan,
Director (RTI)/CPIO,
Ministry of External Affairs,
Room No.23,
Jawahar Lal Nehru Bhawan,
Opposite National Museum,
Rajpath,
New Delhi-110 001.

Sub: Information under Right to Information Act, 2005

Sir,

This Secretariat has received a copy of RTI application dated 29th January, 2013 from Shri C.L. Pawar, Kothi No.599, Phase-2, Mohali, Punjab transferred by Shri S.E. Rizwi, Deputy Secretary/CPIO, Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi vide RTI No.RTI/572/2013-PMR dated 01st February, 2013 regarding information of Point No.1 to 5 of the application. Regarding Point No.5, it is to inform that Vice-President's Secretariat does not keep any notes/record underlying the achievements of the tour. As the matter pertains to your office, the application is further being transferred under section 6(3) of the RTI Act, 2005 to furnish the requisite information to the applicant under intimation to the undersigned.

In case the information sought does not fall under your jurisdiction it may please be further transferred to the concerned Public Authority to which the subject matter is more closely connected.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

(MAHITAB SINGH)
CPIO

Encl: - As above

Copy to:

- (1) Shri C.L. Pawar, Kothi No.599, Phase-2, Mohali, Punjab.
- (2) Shri S.E. Rizwi, Deputy Secretary/CPIO, Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi.

(MAHITAB SINGH)
CPIO

o/c

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P. L. Singh

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PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
31 JAN 2013
DAK SECTION

To The CPIO,
PMO New Delhi.

Subject: Information under RTI with regard to the recent tour of Vice President to Vietnam.

Sir,

The former President Mrs. Patil had remained in controversies with regard to the huge expenditure of public money incurred on her foreign trips during her 5 years' tenure and as per the figures appeared in the Press, the said expenditure ran into more than 300 crores. In a country where about 50% of the population lives in an utter pathetic and pitiful conditions and finds it very difficult even to arrange two times' meal, the President of that country doles out a massive amount of more than Rs. 3 billion merely on tours, the same does not seem to be dignified and rather happens to be the uneven use of hard earned money of tax payers. As a matter of fact such uneven and unusual rules and provisions have been framed/formulated in a planned manner whereby countless facilities have been provided to a class of public servants/public representatives that thousands of crores of public money gets spent yearly on such facilities to the above class. Very relevant to mention that majority of the people belonging to the said class happen to be well to do and earn lacs of rupees per month as salary and perks and as such they could take care of their such conveniences on their own with their own sources and then money so saved could be used for other purposeful things such as the building of schools, hospitals, roads and other public utilities in the country. Had all such facilities or even some of them especially free access of three basic needs viz. food, health and shelter been provided to the general public in order to make their life comfortable and if after achieving such primary goal, the above referred countless facilities or even more were provided to the public servants, there would have been no grudge for the same to anybody because the motive, as was aimed by our founding fathers at the time of independence, was primarily to nourish and serve the people and not to serve the public servants or the public representatives. But all that has not taken place during the last more than 65 years of independence and still about 1/3rd of our population is living below poverty line and this is nothing less but a matter of grave dishonor and disgrace for our system.

The PM preaches to the public for bearing the hard decisions by saying that money does not grow on trees but on the other hand he never takes the requisite steps to curb the tendency of merciless wash out of tax-payers' money. In the matter of CWG -2010, he was repeatedly sounded/alarmed by his Sports Ministers for shunting out Mr. Kalamadi out of the games because of his deceitful actions in the game but the PM did not budge and allowed Mr. Kalamadi to continue in the process of games till the conclusion of the same and as a result of which an alleged loss of about Rs. 70000 crores of public money did take place. In his own presence, dinner was offered to the selective group of public servants @ Rs. 7700 or so per plate (as was appeared in the news papers) and on the other hand, the Planning Commission, which otherwise has failed in providing any noteworthy direction in the matter of well designed financial and allied planning of the country, has reportedly spent about Rs. 35 Lacs merely for making up one bathroom. So the drastic wastage of public money on such avoidable spending is totally deplorable and the same needs to be curbed with heavy hand, especially when the PM says that money does not grow on trees.

As regards the foreign trips of President and Vice President, every body knows that these posts in the country happen to be of ornamental in nature and executive decisions could not be taken by them on their own and thus they can rarely take any policy decision or to execute any type of agreement/negotiations with the foreign Govts. As such, justification that visits of President and Vice President remain helpful in maintaining better relations with other countries does not seem to be convincing and as such foreign trips of these dignitaries, with due regards, need to be curtailed. Recently the Vice President has paid a visit to Vietnam and as such in the overall context of the above position, following information on this issue be provided under RTI Act:-

- 1) Copy of that record be furnished on which the proposal for the said recent tour of the Vice President was mooted and finalized so that the purpose, which remained behind the said tour, could come before the eyes of the people.

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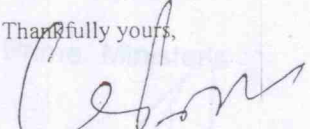
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- 2) How much amount has been spent from public money on the said tour (inclusive of every type of expenses), information be provided on that account by indicating/pin pointing the exact figure of the same.
- 3) Information be provided highlighting all those negotiations, if any, which the Vice President did execute with the Govt. of said country doing his tour in question.
- 4) Information be given highlighting all those benefits, which the country has achieved/gained by virtue of said tour especially in view of justification which usually is given regarding such tours that the same always happen to be in the interest of country's cause.
- 5) After his tour, the Vice President or his office might have recorded any note underlying the achievements of the tour and as such a copy of the said note/record be also furnished.
- 6) With regard to foreign tours, undertaken by the Ex-President Mrs. Patil on public expenses during her 5 years tenure, the same information be provided regarding her each tour individually, as has been sought for vide points No. 4 & 5 above viz. regarding her each tour, information be given on the same lines as sought for vide above said points No. 4 & 5.
- 7) Despite countless scams which came to the fore during the last couple of years and with which whole of the country got stunned, despite alleged policy paralysis almost in every field, despite totally mis-management on the safety of food grains - lacs of tons of which getting rotten continuously and despite other number of odd things which cropped up during all these years, the Central Govt. celebrated its three years "achievements" and at which time, dinner was reportedly offered to the gathering @ Rs. 7700/- or so per plate. In this respect information be provided :-
 - a. Whether expenses on the said dinner were incurred from public funds or else the funds were provided by the ruling party from its own sources?
 - b. If the funds were incurred from Public exchequer, information be provided highlighting the total amount of the said expenditure which was so incurred and also pin point the amount per plat.
 - c. If the funds on the said event were incurred from public funds, in that event copy of that record be furnished on which a decision was taken to make use of public funds for the purpose was taken and also as to by whom the proposal in question was mooted because not a single penny of public money could be used for any purpose without any appropriate decision duly taken by the competent authority on the same.
- 8) This information be also provided whether the Planning Commission did spend an amount of Rs. 35.00 Lacs of so on the construction/renovation of one bathroom in its premises, as was highlighted in the press/channels at that time?
- 9) If so, information highlighting the exact figure of expenditure in the matter be provided and at the same time copy of that record be also furnished on which a decision was taken to spend such a huge amount of public money for a mere making up a bathroom.
- 10) As per the news report dated 21.01.13 (copy enclosed) the GOI has framed new guidelines to curb/restrict the tours of Govt. functionaries, in which respect a copy of said guidelines be furnished:

A postal order of Rs. 10/- is attached as processing fee. Please provide the information well within stipulated period.

Dated: ^{gg} January 2013

Thankfully yours,


(C.L. Pawar)
Kothi No. 599, Phase 2,
Mohali (Punjab)