

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2063  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2003  
SPIRITUAL AND MEDITATION COURSE  
RAMDAS ATHAWALE;VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

**Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the Government has directed the Government Officers/staff to undertake spiritual and meditation training offered by the Art of Living Foundation;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the foundation charges for the training were borne by the Government;
- (d) if so, the total expenditure incurred by the Government as a result thereof;
- (e) the number of officers of the Ministries/Departments who have already taken the training; and
- (f) the likely impact of this training on higher productivity in the Government Offices?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS. (SHRI HARIN PATHAK)

(a),(b)&(e): No, Sir. The Art of Living course was arranged by some Ministries/Departments for the officers/staff who opted for it on a purely voluntary basis.

As per information available, the following Ministries/Departments had facilitated Art of Living Course through Vyakti Vikas Kendra for their officers/staff :

S. No. Name of Ministry/Deptt. No. of Participants

- 1. Ministry of Home Affairs 49
- 2. Ministry of External Affairs 29
- 3. Ministry of Consumer Affairs,  
Food & Public Distribution 32
- 4. Department of Personnel and Training  
and Department of Pensions &  
Pensioners Welfare 60

Total 170

(c): The course fee was Rs. 1500/- per participant of which 10% of the course fee i.e. Rs.150/- was charged by the Ministry/Department concerned from the participants.

(d): A total of 170 officers/staff had attended the course, involving a total expenditure Rs.2,29,500/-.

(f): The course was generally well received by the participants.