

SECOND REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(1994-95)

(TENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (1994-95)

Presented to Lok Sabha on

26 APR 1994

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APR 1994



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(1994-95)

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(iv)

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40. Shri K. Mohammad Khan
41. Shri V.N. Gadgil
42. Shri K. Rahman Khan

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri G. L. Batra — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri R.V. Warjri — *Director*
3. Shri Ashok Sarin — *Under Secretary.*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on External Affairs having been authorised by the Committee to present on their behalf, this Second Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 1994-95.

2. The Standing Committee on External Affairs was re-constituted on 6th April, 1994. One of the functions of the Standing Committee as laid down in Rule 331E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha is to consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries/ Departments and make a report on the same to the Houses. The Report shall not suggest anything of the nature of cut motions.

3. The Committee (1993-94) took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs on 4th and 5th April, 1994. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of External Affairs for placing before the Committee the material and information which they desire in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry for 1994-95 and for giving evidence before the Committee.

4. The Committee (1994-95) considered and adopted the report at their sitting held on 19 April, 1994.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;
19, April, 1994

Chaitra 29, 1916 (Saka)

ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE,
Chairman,
Standing Committee
on External Affairs.

REPORT

1. The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 17th March, 1994. The budgetary provision for the Ministry of External Affairs is entirely non-plan. Demand No. 24 of the Ministry contains the figures of Revenue as well as Capital expenditure which are as follows :

(In thousands of Rs.)

Revenue	Capital	Total
Charged 2,00	—	2,00
Voted 800,99,00	43,99,00	844,98,00

2. The details of the actual Revenue and Capital expenditure for the years 1991-92 and 1992-93, Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates for 1993-94 and Budget estimates for 1994-95 of the Ministry are as under :

REVENUE SECTION

(In thousands of Rs.)

Sl. No.	Major Head	Items	1991-92 Actuals Non-Plan	1992-93 Actuals Non-Plan	1993-94 BE Non-Plan	RE	1994-95 BE Non-Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	2052	Secretariat Charged General Services Voted	-	-	1,00	1,00	1,00
			38,78,98	61,49,22	40,78,00	48,87,14	50,46,15
2.	2061	(B) External Affairs					
		B(1) Embassies & Missions	2,02,97,58	2,97,34,99	2,72,26,00	3,17,75,01	339,99,85
		B(2) Special Diplomatic Expenditure Charged Voted	-	-	1,00	1,00	1,00
			92,29,54	1,02,92,51	1,18,12,00	156,29,00	129,47,00
		B(3) International Conferences/ Meetings	19,27	12,70	30,00	10,79,00	2,00,00
		B(4) Central Passport & Emigration Organisation	22,23,34	30,34,86	32,00,00	50,90,00	54,35,00
		B(5) Entertainment Charges	3,16,47	4,64,16	3,50,00	6,50,00	5,00,00

	B(6) International Cooperation	11,59,55	15,81,64	16,23,87	21,75,73	21,51,57
	B(7) Training	12,80	16,84	15,00	20,00	20,00
	B(8) Other Expenditure	22,40,12	26,35,81	47,56,13	29,44,00	26,57,62
	-Total major Head "2061"	-	-	1,00	1,00	1,00
	Charged	8,54,98,67	47,71,73,51	490,13,00	593,61,74	579,11,04
	Voted	-	-	-	-	-
3.	2075 C. Miscellaneous General Services loss by exchange	-	-	-	23,90,00	1,00
4.	3052 D. Shipping	-	-	-	8,30,00	1,00
5.	3053 E. Civil Aviation	-	1,36,17	1,00	1,07,00	4,30,00
6.	3605 F. Technical and Economic Cooperation with other countries	138,20,01	115,83,90	167,11,00	147,46,12	800,99,00
	Total : Revenue Section	-	-	2,00	2,00	2,00
	Charged	5,33,87,99,	6,56,42,80	6,98,03,00	823,22,00	800,99,00
	Voted	-	-	-	-	-
CAPITAL SECTION						
7.	4059 Capital outlay on Public works	21,13,48	32,38,25	28,95,00	21,95,77	28,95,00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	4216	Capital outlay on Housing	21,27	9,03,00	5,79,00	22,29,00	5,00,00
9.	7453	Loan for foreign trade export promotion	-	6,00,00	1,00	1,49,92	1,00
10.	7605	Advances to Foreign Governments	-	10,00,00	15,02,00	34,00,00	10,02,00
11.	7615	Miscellaneous Loans	-	31	1,00	1,31	1,00
		Total : Capital Section	21,34,75	57,41,56	49,78,00	79,76,00	43,99,00
		Grand Total Charged	-	-	2,00	2,00	2,00
		Voted	5,55,22,74	713,84,36	747,81,00	902,98,00	844,98,00

3. The Ministry of External Affairs have informed the Committee that inspite of stringent austerity measures taken it has not been possible to contain the expenditure within the BE 1993-94 of Rs. 747,83 Crs. The RE 1993-94 works out to Rs. 903.00 Crs. reflecting an increase of Rs.155.17 Crs. over the BE 1993-94

OVERVIEW

4. The BE 1994-95 of Rs. 845.00 Crs. is Rs. 97.17 Crs. more than BE 1993-94 and Rs. 58.00 Crs. less than the RE 93-94. The break-up of BE 94-95 is as under :

(Amount in Crores of Rupees)

Revenue	801.01
Capital	43.99
	<u>845.00</u>

The Revenue allocations include Rs. 2.00 Lakhs as charged expenditure.

5. The expenditure on establishment represents 52.63% of the total budget of the Ministry. This is made up of expenditure on Missions/posts abroad (40.23%), Headquarters (5.97%) and Passport & Emigration (6.43%). The break-up on the rest of the expenditure is as follows :

Aid/Advances to Foreign Governments	20.95%
Special Diplomatic Expenditure	15.32%
Capital Outlay	4.02%
Other Activities (grant-in-aid to various institutions including ICCR)	7.08%

Expenditure on Headquarters

6. The estimated expenditure on the Headquarters Organisation of the Ministry during the current financial year (1994-95) is expected to be Rs. 50.47 crores which is 6% of the total estimated revenue expenditure of this Ministry. Out of this, Rs. 11.86 crores will be on Salaries and Wages, Rs. 11.00 crores on Travel Expenses, Rs. 13.85 crores on Office Expenses, Rs. 6.00 crores on Publicity and Rs. 6.90 crores on Rent and Maintenance.

Expenditure on Missions

7. The total estimated expenditure on Indian Embassies/Missions abroad is expected to be Rs. 339.99 crores during the current financial year which

works out to 40.2% of the total estimated Revenue Expenditure of the Ministry. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 144.78 crores is for Salaries (including Foreign Allowance), Overtime allowance and Wages, Rs. 38.73 crores for Travel Expenses (Transfer Passages/Home Leave Passages, and Local Tours), Rs. 69.80 crores for Office Expenses and Rs. 86.67 crores for Rent, Rates and Taxes as well as for Repairs and Maintenance of Government owned/rented accommodation in Missions abroad.

8. The Demands for Grants (1993-94) were discussed by the Committee with the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs and the results of the discussions held are given headwise in the succeeding paragraphs.

Increase in RE 1993-94 over BE 1993-94

9. The committee note that the Revised Estimates for 1993-94 works out to Rs. 903.00 crores against the Budget Estimates for Rs. 748.83 crores, thus reflecting an increase of Rs 155.17 crores. The Ministry have stated that inspite of stringent austerity measures taken, it has not been possible to contain the expenditure within the BE 1993-94. The Committee cannot but express concern over this trend of excess in expenditure for which the Parliament is later presented with a *fait accompli*. The increase in expenditure (like Rs.71 crores due to depreciation of Rupee value) which was unforeseen, is ofcourse unavoidable. Yet the total increase to the tune of more than Rs. 155 crores, notwithstanding the saving of Rs.21crores because of non-utilisation of the provision for release of foreign exchange to Haj pilgrims at official rate of exchange, calls for monetary control. Evidently, the whole system of preparation of Budget needs to be improved. It should be more realistic and ensured that the variations between the estimates and actuals are minimised.

Restructuring of Budget Proposals

10. In the course of the evidence the Committee pointed out to the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs the imperfections in the format of the budget wherein not only several Heads/Sub Heads which have become redundant continue to be included but various items of expenditure closely related to each other are being shown under different Heads/Sub Heads at different places. For example, the totality of expenditure on international relations which consists of four components *viz.*, contribution to international inter-governmental organisations, cost of participation in international conferences, holding of international conferences in India and special delegations sent abroad from time to time is not immediately available although these items are inter-related. Similarly, some items which clearly relate to establishment have been shown under a totally unrelated head. The

expenditure on cultural relations, on consular services, on external publicity and on economic relations and on research projects and studies are disbursed separately, when they can be easily grouped together. The Foreign Secretary has agreed to restructure the budget in the light of the views of the Committee in consultation with the Ministry of Finance so that not only the classification, sub classification and grouping are rationalised but the outlay on a specific bilateral or multilateral functions of the Ministry is easily discernible.

11. The Committee expect the Ministry of External Affairs to take up the matter with the Ministry of finance at the earliest with a view to ensuring that the Budget structure from the next year is rationalised in terms of a more scientific and rational classification and sub-classification. This would facilitate the grouping of expenditure on similar items and depiction of the total thereof at one place in the Budget proposals. This in turn will help the Parliament to know the entire expenditure in one particular field at one place and monitor its rise or fall. The Committee hope that the Ministry of Finance would appreciate the necessity of such an exercise and cooperate with the Ministry of External Affairs in this regard.

Foreign Exchange/Rupee component in BE 1994-95 *vis-a-vis* RE 1993-94

12. Out of a total budget allocation of Rs. 903.00 crores in RE 1993-94 the rupee component was Rs. 431.00 crores. In BE 1994-95 the rupee component is Rs. 374.00 cores *i.e.* Rs. 57 crores less than the RE 1993-94. According to the Ministry this is so because the main "onetime" expenditure in RE 1993-94 was Rs. 89.12 crores as that compared to the BE 94-95 of Rs. 16.35 crores. Thus, exceptional provisions in RE 93-94 by themselves account for a difference of Rs. 72.77 crores which is greater than the Rs. 57.00 crores apparent decrease in the rupee component in BE 94-95 *vis-a-vis* RE 93-94.

13. The Committee find that the apparent increase in the rupee component for BE 94-95 *vis-a-vis* RE 93-94 is only Rs. 15.77 crores which comes to 4.7% if the "onetime" exceptional provisions are discounted from the BE 93-94. The Committee feel that this increase is inadequate to maintain our diplomatic activity at the same level given the annual rate of inflation. The Committee desire that the Budget proposal should be so framed as to ensure that there is an increase in rupee component in real terms so that the activities and services which depend upon the rupee component do not suffer on account of constraint in availability of funds.

14. Coming to the foreign exchange component the budget estimate for 1994-95 is at the same level; in fact one crore less than the revised estimate 1993-94. This implies that the level of our diplomatic activity abroad given the average inflation all over the world is likely to go down. The Committee

would like the Ministry of External Affairs to ensure that while formulating the budget our diplomatic activities do not suffer on account of paucity of funds.

TRAVEL EXPENSES

Major Head "2052"

Minor Head A. 1-Secretariat

A. 1(4)-Travel Expenses

Major Head "2061"

Minor Head B. 1-Embassies and Missions

B. 1(4)-Travel Expenses

15. The expenditure incurred under both the heads is as follows :

Major Head / Sub-Head	(Rs. in Crores)					
	Actuals 1991-92	BE 1992-93	Actuals 1992-93	BE 1993-94	RE 1993-94	BE 1994-95
Major Head "2052"	5.00	4.81	8.95	6.00	11.00	11.00
A.1(4) – Travel Exp.						
i) Exp. on Transfer				4.8	8.8	8.8
ii) Other Travels				1.2	2.2	2.2
Major Head "2061"	27.19	26.44	37.69	32.36	38.34	38.74
B.1(4) – Travel Exp.						
(Total allocation)						
i) Exp. on Transfer				27.9	34.18	35.20
ii) Other Travel				4.41	4.16	3.54

16. It is evident from the above statement that there is wide variation in the BE, RE and Actual Expenditure on Travel expenses under both heads. Whereas in case of A. 1(4)-Secretariat BE 92-93 was Rs. 4.81 crores, the actual expenditure turned out to be Rs. 8.95 crores. Again, against the BE 93-94 of Rs. 6.00 corers, the RE 93-94 is already Rs. 11.00 crores. Similarly in Minor Head B.1(4)-Missions & Post, the BE 92-93, the travel expenses were Rs. 26.44

crores and the actual expenditure came out to be Rs. 37.69 crores, the RE 93-94 has gone upto Rs. 38.34 crores.

17. Further, whereas there was increase of 20% in RE 93-94 over BE 93-94 on the expenditure on travel on account of transfers in case of Missions/ Posts abroad the same has increased by more than 80% in the RE 93-94 over BE 93-94 in respect of Headquarters.

18. As regards the additional provision of Rs. 5.00 crores for travel expenses under the minor head A.1(4)-Secretariat in the RE 93-94 over BE 93-94 the Ministry have stated that it is on account of increase in air-fare, larger number of VVIPs visits abroad; deputation of officers to strengthen missions/posts and increased expenditure in terms of Rupees on total charges and cash allowances due to the revision of the official rate of exchange.

19. In the case of expenditure on transfers; in addition to the variation in the rate of exchange, another vital factor is stated to be the number of movements on transfers. Similar reasons have been advanced by the Ministry for increase in expenditure in the Major Head "2061"; B.1(4).

20. The Committee note with concern the rising trend in travel expenses under the head A.1(4)-Secretariat which increased from Rs, 5.00 crores in 91-92 to Rs. 8.95 crores in 92-93. And in the year 93-94 it may be actually more than the RE of Rs. 11.00 crores. While there may be increase in a particular year due to certain unforeseen factors, the gradual steep increase is undesirable and needs to be checked. The Committee expect the Ministry to pay greater attention to this matter.

21. Another pertinent point to be noted in the expenditure incurred on travel under both the heads pertaining to Headquarters and Missions/ Posts abroad is that a major portion thereof was accounted for by the transfers of officials. The Committee feel that the Ministry may review its transfer policies in order to minimise the expenditure on transfers and home leave passages.

PUBLICITY EXPENSES

Major Head "2052"

Minor Head A.1(7)-Headquarters

Major Head "2061"

Minor Head B.1(5) - Expenditure incurred by Missions included in Office Expenses.

(Rs. in Crores)

	Actuals 1992-93	BE 1993-94	RE 1993-94	BE 1994-95
H.Q.	4.83	4.50	5.80	6.06
Missions/Posts abroad			6.09	6.31

22. The Ministry have stated that as far as BE 93-94 in respect of publicity by Missions and Posts are concerned, the expenses formed part of office expenses and as such no separate allocation was made. RE 93-94 onwards, a separate allocation has been made in respect of each Missions/Post for publicity expenses as per the directive of the Committee last year. All Missions/Posts are maintaining separate accounts of expenditure on publicity. However, the expenditure continues to be booked under 'Office Expenses'.

23. The Foreign Secretary informed the Committee during evidence that they had asked for Rs. 7.7 crores for publicity at Headquarters but were allowed only Rs. 6.06 crores in the BE 94-95 in the Budget Estimates. Apart from the expenditure incurred by Missions/Posts abroad for publicity, a Special Unit was set up last year which has drawn up a comprehensive publicity plan for foreign countries to supplement the functions of the Ministry's External Publicity Division at Headquarters.

24. As regards the structure of the Information Wing of the Missions, the Ministry have stated in reply to recommendations (SI. Nos. 6 & 7) contained in the 1st Report of the Committee that keeping in view the needs of Press and Information Sections in different missions, senior officers are heading the Press and Information Wings in Missions in London, Washington, Hong Kong, Dhaka, Ottawa, Cairo, Paris, Republic of Korea and Moscow.

25. In reply to a query the Foreign Secretary stated during evidence that there are 32 diplomatic officers in 141 missions abroad who are exclusively doing Information work.

26. The Committee was apprised about the appointment of a professional public relations firm in USA in January, 1994 to promote India's interest. The Committee desire that after the initial period of 6 months, there should be a thorough review of the performance of the firm before any further extension is given.

27. The Committee are constrained to observe that despite a specific recommendation made by them in their 1st Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry for 1993-94 to enhance the outlay on publicity, there has

been only marginal increase (Rs. 1.56 crores) in allocation in the BE 94-95 for this purpose, at Headquarters and virtually no increase for this expenditure by Missions/Posts abroad particularly when there is imperative need for both positive publicity and counter publicity using modern technology and infrastructure. The Committee feel that the publicity work to be carried out at Headquarters and through Missions abroad cannot be under-estimated for which more funds have to be provided. The Committee hope that necessary increase in the allocation in this regard would be provided at RE stage. They would also like the Ministry to ensure that the functional expenses of the Information Section or Wing of the Missions/Posts are shown separately in Demands for Grants and are not clubbed with office expenses of the Missions/Post-abroad so as to depict the totality of expenditure being incurred for publicity work.

28. The Committee stress the need for maximizing publicity effort through our Missions/Posts. In this respect, the Committee consider that the total number of information officers (32 in 141 Missions/Posts) is definitely very low. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should consciously categorise Missions/Posts into Missions in which the Head of Missions/Posts (HOM/P) or the political Officer is in charge of publicity work; Missions in which the HOM/P or the Political Officer is assisted by an Attache Information; Missions/Posts in which a First/Second Secretary Information heads the Information Section; Missions in which the Head of the Information Section is assisted by an Attache (Information) and Missions in which there is need for a Minister/Counsellor (Information), if necessary assisted by a First/Second Secretary and/or Attache (Information). The Committee are of the view that reinforcement of publicity effort does not mean only the upgradation of the post of the Head of Information Wing. The Committee therefore suggest that the Ministry should urgently determine the staff requirement of each Mission/Post for this purpose and review it every three years.

The Committee also find that the posts of Heads of publicity Division in some important stations have been upgraded. The equivalent posts in other important missions like Bonn, Tehran, Jakarta, Singapore, Tokyo and Islamabad have not been upgraded. However, Committee would like to be apprised of the results of the exercise. The Ministry should indicate both the present position and the proposed pattern.

OFFICE EXPENSES

Major Head "2052"

Major Head "2061"

Minor Head A.1(5)

Minor Head B.1(5)

29. The Committee note that the BE 94-95 for Office Expenses in the Headquarters is Rs. 13.84 crores and for Missions is Rs. 69.80 crores. The break-up of the office expenses into major items of expenditure such as local transport, telephone, stationery, P & T charges etc. has not been provided. In the absence of which it is difficult to evaluate the rationale behind the expenditure or its rise and fall. The Committee therefore desire that the Ministry should in future provide the break-up of office expenses into various items of expenditure beginning with in the next year's demands for grants. Similarly, the break-up under salaries may also be provided so that a clear picture is available on expenditure, on salaries allowances, foreign allowances, representational grant, medical expenses etc.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

Major Head "2061"

Minor Head B.3(1)

(Rs. in Crores)

Actuals 1992-93	BE 1993-94	RE 1993-94	BE 1994-95
0.13	0.30	10.79	2.00

30. It is observed that there is a sharp increase in the provision for expenditure on International Conferences and Meetings in RE 93-94. In this regard the Ministry have explained that in 1993-94 a special requirement arose in respect of G-15 Summit which was a post-budgetary development and therefore could not be included at the time of preparation of BE 93-94. Out of the Rs. 10.79 crores asked for in RE 93-94, approximately Rs. 6.5 crores have been spent in procuring 15 Mercedes Vehicles for the Conference of which 4 would be retained by the Protocol Division for VIP visits and the remaining 11 would be sold at the same price to the other Government departments. The total expenditure for the G-15 Conference, scheduled for December, 1993 and the same held later in March, 1994 would be Rs. 6 crores.

31. The Committee were also informed that the delegates to the G-15 Conference were put up in Maurya Sheraton Hotel and not in the ITDC owned Ashok Hotel because firstly the Ashok Hotel was unable to release 14 suites required for the purpose and it was also felt that the standard of Service/facilities were not up to the required level. Moreover, due to the

high degree of security required, the Ashok Hotel could not be adequately sanitized from the Security point of view.

32. The Committee express concern that an internationally known Public Sector like ITDC's Ashok Hotel was not found suitable from security and service point of view for holding of International Summits like G-15. The Committee desire that the Ministry of External Affairs may take up the matter with Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation for refurbishing/improving the standard of services and the security arrangements in the Ashok Hotel so that in future accommodation for International Summits could be organised there without any difficulty. The Committee have taken note of the fact that expenditure on holding inter-governmental conferences in India has been rising sharply. They desire that every care should be under taken to control the expenditure while meeting fully the demand of hospitality and security.

PASSPORT AND EMIGRATION

Major Head "2061"

Minor Head B.4

(Rs. in Crores)

Actuals 1992-93	BE 1993-94	RE 1993-94	BE 1994-95
30.34	32.00	50.90	54.35

33. It is noticed that there is an increase of Rs. 18.90 crores in the RE 93-94 over BE 93-94 in respect of the Central Passport and Emigration Organisation. Out of this Rs. 18.90 crores the major portion of increase (Rs. 17.36 crores) pertain to the Office Expenses. The increase in Office Expenses, according to Ministry, is due to the increase in number of passport booklets required- from 30 lakhs to 40 lakhs (Rs. 7.9 crores); arrears payable as a result of revision of per booklet rate from Rs. 75/- to Rs. 79/- by Security Press Nasik (Rs. 1.5 crores); cost of interiors of the new RPO Building, Delhi (Rs. 2.00 Crores); increased requirement of passport forms (Rs. 0.57 crores); cost of Computerisation (Rs. 3.0 crores) and the remaining increase (Rs. 2.39 crores) is due to postal charges and up-dating of office equipment in Passport Offices.

34. The Committee have been informed that consequent upon the revision in the Passport fee, revenue to the tune of Rs. 155 crores would be available to the Government in 1994-95 as against the actual earnings of Rs. 94.00 crores in 1992-93. However, the revenue earned would not be automatically

available for use by the Central Passport Organisation as such revenue go to the Consolidated Fund of India.

35. The Committee in their first Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry for 1993-94 had desired that a thorough and systematic review be under taken for issuing passport to all entitled citizens within the stipulated time frame of 4 weeks. The Ministry stated that the proposal have been initiated and approved in principle, on the basis of which a detailed system design would be worked out by them during 1994-95.

36. The Committee find that there is substantial increase to the tune of Rs. 18.90 crores in the RE 93-94 over BE 93-94 and the BE 94-95 also exceed the RE 93-94 by about Rs. 4.00 crores. This increase, perhaps, has been agreed to by the Ministry of Finance taking into consideration the substantial increase in revenue from Passport and Visa fees. The break-up of the increase reveal that large funds are being used for increased demand for booklets, computerisation postal charges, office expenditure etc. The Committee hope that large expenditure incurred in 1993-94 and to be incurred in 1994-95 from this increased allocation would be utilised for augmenting and improving the facilities e.g. by opening new Offices. In this regard, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on External Affairs has already appointed a Sub-Committee to go deeper into the several complaints regarding issuing of Passports. Meanwhile whatever suitable measures are required should be taken up at the earliest. Apart from expeditious computerisation of the Passport Offices, the Ministry should also see that 400 additional post sanctioned last year are filled up, as early as possible. The Committee feel that the passport organisation should pay for itself but the fees and service charges could be to commensurate with the cost and expenditure incurred.

37. The Committee would also like the Ministry of External Affairs to expeditiously work out the detailed system design reagrding issue of passports already agreed to in principle, and implement accordingly, to ensure that passports are issued to the applicants within the stipulated time frame of 4 weeks. They would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

Major Head "2062"

B.8 OTHER EXPENDITURE

38. The Committee have noted that the estimates under B-8 - Other Expenditure covers a variety of expenditure including establishment, cultural diplomacy, international relations, consular assistance, as well as support for research projects and studies. The Committee appreciate that

research studies and projects are a necessary input for the formulation of policy as well as collection of information. However, the Committee feel that as far as practicable the Ministry instead of relying upon few organisations some of which wholly funded by the Ministry such as the Society for Research and Information System (SRIS) should draw upon the entire academic and research spectrum available in the country, define its specific requirements and select the best institution available in any university or research institution of the country. The Committee have noted in this context the high level of grant-in-aid to the Society for Research and Information System for non-aligned and developing countries. The Committee was informed that this Society was an outcome of the Non-Aligned Summit held in India. The Committee would like the Ministry to review the work of this Society in relation to its original objectives of meeting a felt needs of non-aligned and developing countries.

ICCR

Minor Head B.8(2)

(Rs. in Crores)

Actual Exp. 1992-93	BE 1993-94	RE 1993-94	BE 1994-95
14.56	15.00	15.00	15.00

39. The Foreign Secretary informed the Committee during evidence that the requirements of the ICCR for the Revised Estimates had been projected to the Finance Ministry as Rs.22 crores and for the Budget Estimates 1994-95 this figure was Rs. 27 crores. However, the eventual grant at BE 93-94 stage and in BE 94-95 has remained the same i.e. Rs. 15.00 crores. It is seen from the original projection for BE 94-95 vis-a-vis BE 93-94 that major increase (Rs. 5.4 crores) sought was for cultural centres abroad. The other activities for which additional funds were required included incoming and outgoing delegations (Rs. 1.3 crores), seminars/conferences (Rs. 0.93 crores); Foreign Student Welfare (Rs. 1.55 crores); Exhibition (Rs. 0.30 crores) etc.

40. According to the Financial Adviser of the Ministry, two points were put forward by the Ministry of Finance at the time of finalisation of the Budget proposals. One was that a study should be made whether the cultural centres abroad need to be continued or need to be abolished or modified and with the savings obtained on account of abolition or modification of existing cultural centres, new centres could be opened. It was opined by them that no case has been made out for opening new centres without having gone into

the functioning of the old centres. The second was that there was a capping of the total figures given to the Ministry, beyond which the Ministry of Finance was not willing to increase the budget. He added that he was not fully aware of the compulsions of the Ministry of Finance in capping the figures of the Ministry as a whole and the functioning of other organisations within the Ministry. There was a specific capping at Rs.15.00 crores as far as ICCR was concerned.

41. In reply to a query the witness replied that their discussions took place at the Secretary level in the Department of Finance.

42. The Foreign Secretary admitted that the cuts imposed on the ICCR budget would necessarily mean some curtailments of ICCR's traditional activities and increase in the degree of privatisation in the field of performing arts.

43. In reply to a question the DG, ICCR stated that they required atleast Rs. 3.50 crores more to maintain during 1994-95 the level of performance as during 1993-94.

44. The Committee were also informed that the Government of India have not taken up policy decision or prescribed that new centres will not be allowed to be opened unless some existing cultural centres are closed.

45. The DG, ICCR explained that the performance of the Centres abroad was regularly evaluated on the basis of the periodical reports. And that the ICCR had now set up an Expert Committee for critical evaluation as to whether the Centres had fulfilled the object and purpose behind their establishment. In the light of the recommendations of the Committee, the Ministries shall decide about the relocation and reorientation of their activities.

46. The Committee regret to observe that the grants to the ICCR has remained static at the level of Rs. 15.00 crores from 1992-93 onwards which implies that in fact it has gone down in real terms. The Committee felt that even if no new centres were envisaged the maintenance of activities at the present level would justify an increase of 20 per cent over 1992-93. The Committee concluded that the Ministry of External Affairs had not been able to put forward the case of the ICCR properly and effectively and that the Finance Ministry had failed to appreciate the need and desirability of cultural diplomacy. The Committee suggest that before formulating the revised estimates the President of the ICCR and the Finance Minister should together consider the question of additional funds for cultural activities abroad. The Committee hope that the report of the ICCR's Expert Committee shall be available to them. The Committee reiterate the view that in every Mission/Post one diplomatic officer should be charged with cultural work. In selected Missions/Posts there should be a Cultural Wing or a Sub Wing

under the Information Wing; in places where there is a cultural centre the Director should be the ex-officio Cultural Officer of Mission/Post. The Committee hope that this would be kept in view at the time of revising the budget.

ICWA

Major Head "2062"

Minor Head B8(5) (9)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

BE 1993-94	RE 1993-94	BE 1994-95
1.00	1.00	1.00

47. The committee was informed that the the High Powered Committee proposed in its First Report to suggest necessary modalities for the revival of the ICWA could not be formed because the governing body of the ICWA had not made a formal request in this regard. The Committee also noted that no financial support had been extended by the Ministry to the ICWA since 1985 as only a token provision of Rs. 1.00 lakh had been made in B.E. 1994-95.

48. The Committee reiterate the recommendation made in its First Report and desire the Ministry to persevere in its efforts with the objective of reviving the ICWA and restoring it as an autonomous institution of national importance and that they should find a way to break the current impasse through consultations.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES ON INDIA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Major Head "2062"

Minor Head B.8(5) (14)

49. The Committee took note of the provision of Rs. 2.00 lakhs in B.E. 1994-95 for establishment of a Centre for Advanced Studies of India at the University of Pennsylvania, USA. The Committee welcome this step and express the view that all Missions/posts abroad should be in touch with all universities in their jurisdiction which have a programme on Indian or South-Asian Studies and suitably encourage and assist them through gifting of books, academic visits, scholarships etc. The Committee also recommend

that missions in countries where there are no such programmes should encourage such exercise in at least one major centre of research in that country. The Committee feel that the Ministry should impress upon missions/posts abroad the desirability of strengthening the academic interest and promoting academic interest on India and South Asia.

SUBSIDY ON HAJ TRAVEL

Major Head "2062"

Minor Head B.8(5) (16) – Payment to SBI on account of foreign exchange release to Haj pilgrims at official rate of exchange.

Major head "3052" – D. Shipping

Major Head "3053" – E. Civil Aviation

50. A provision of Rs. 1.00 lakh has been made in the BE 94-95 for payment on account of foreign Exchange release to Haj pilgrims at official rate of exchange. The BE and RE 93-94 for this purpose were Rs. 21.00 crores and Rs. 1.00 lakh respectively.

51. The Committee are informed that consequent upon the Standing Committee's recommendation the matter for providing any subsidy to the Haj pilgrims on the purchase of foreign exchange, has not been further pursued by the Government and no payments (estimated at Rs. 21 crores) have been made. This is why there is a provision of only Rs. 1.00 lakh in RE for 93-94.

52. In its 1st Report on Demands for Grants for 1993-94 the Committee had also recommended that while maintaining the services for the welfare of the Indian Haj pilgrims travelling to Saudi Arabia at an adequate level, the Government should progressively reduce and eventually eliminate the element of subsidy on their transportation to and from India.

53. As regards the subsidy on Haj pilgrims travel, the Ministry has furnished the following information :—

	Actual Subsidy	Rs. in Crores
1.	Subsidy on account of air travel for pilgrims (20,500 @Rs. 7,000 per pilgrim) (This is borne on the budget of Ministry of Civil Aviation).	14.21 Haj
2.	Subsidy on account of Haj pilgrims travel by sea (4700 pilgrims in total while the subsidy has been calculated on the basis of 3600 bunk class passengers) (This is borne on MOST's budget).	3.95
		18.17

The following costs, indirectly linked to charters connected with the 1993 Haj were, infact subsidies to the islanders of A & N Islands.

1.	Charges for chartering a vessel in lieu of MV Nicobar for the commuters between A&N islands and mainland in the absence of MV Nicobar during Haj 1993.	6.64 *
2.	26 special flights arranged through Indian Airlines Corporation for the commuter between islands and mainland till such time as MV fibi reported for duty.	1.06 **
		7.70

* Against budget provision of Rs. 8.30 crores in RE of MEA.

** Against the budget provision of Rs. 1.07 crores in RE of MEA.

54. Further, according to the Ministry, for the Haj Season 1994, Ministry of Finance placed a limit (Rs. 24.16 crores) on the overall cost to be borne by the Government on account of the Haj pilgrims and the provision of alternative transport of the A&N islands.

1.	Subsidy on air travel for Haj pilgrims (on budget of M/o Civil Aviation)	14.00 Crs.
2.	Subsidy on sea travel of haj pilgrims (on budget of M/o Surface Transport)	5.85 Crs.
		19.85 Crs

55. For the daily air services between the mainland and A&N islands during the period when MV Nicobar would be utilised for the Haj pilgrimage, Finance Ministry has limited the expenditure to Rs. 4.31 crores. This expenditure is borne on the budget of MEA.

56. In this connection Secretary (East) deposed before the Committee that at the time of preparation for the Haj this year the point regarding the progressive reduction and elimination of subsidy was clearly conveyed to the Haj Committee and also well projected at the All India Haj Conference, 1993 in which representatives of all Haj Committees have participated, that the purpose of mobilising public opinion to achieve the objective at the earliest.

57. The Committee referred to the break-up of the expenditure under the Minor Head B.8(4) – Delegation to United Nations, etc. and pointed out that Rs. 1 crore have been provided in the RE 1993-94 as compared to that of Rs. 60 lakhs in BE 1993-94 on Haj Goodwill delegation and medical mission.

22 eminent persons comprised the Haj Goodwill delegation last year. Explaining the position in this regard, the Secretary (East) in the Ministry stated during evidence that such delegations help to foster our relations with Saudi Arabia and also develop effective contacts with other similar delegations from other countries.

58. The Committee note with satisfaction that no payments (estimated at Rs. 21 crores) as subsidy to the Haj pilgrims on the purchase of foreign exchange were made during the year 1993-94 as had been recommended by them. However, the Committee regretted that its recommendation for progressively reducing and eventually eliminating the element of subsidy on their transportation to and from India has not been acted upon as evident from the proposed increase in such expenditure from Rs. 18.28 crores during 1993-94 to Rs. 19.85 crores for 1994-95. The Committee expect the Ministry to ensure that the actual subsidy during 1994-95 is brought down as compared to 1993-94.

59. The Committee note that the subsidy on account of air travel is borne under the budget of Ministry of Civil Aviation and that on account of travel by sea is borne on Ministry of Surface Transport's budget. However, the cost linked to the chartering of the vessel in place of the regular vessels, (with drawn for Haj pilgrims) for operation in the Madras-Port Blair sector for the Andaman and Nicobar Islanders and the payment of Indian Airlines for charter operations between Madras/Calcutta-Port Blair and borne on the budget of Ministry of External Affairs. Since Andaman and Nicobar is a Union Territory, this expenditure should have been booked in the budget of Ministry of Home Affairs. The Committee would like the Ministry of External Affairs to take up this matter with the Finance Ministry.

60. From the facts placed before the Committee it is clear that the total subsidy on the Haj pilgrims is not shown at one place in the Demands for Grants. Even though the subsidy on travel is booked in the budget of different Ministries, the Ministry of External Affairs may examine the feasibility of collecting these figures and depicting the total subsidy on travel as well as expenditure incurred by them on the Haj Goodwill delegation at one place, in their Demands for Grants in order to give an idea of the totality of the subsidy on Haj pilgrims. This may be included within the demands for grants for Ministry of External Affairs.

61. The Committee are concerned to note the rise in the expenditure on the Haj Goodwill delegation to Saudi Arabia for which a provision of about Rs. 1 crore has been made in the B.E. 1994-95. The Committee are not convinced that such delegations serve any useful purpose during the Haj when no effective discussions far less negotiations with the South Arabian

authorities on Haj matters are possible. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the size of the delegation should be reduced to a token representation of the Government of India if considered necessary and the saving so effected should be utilised to the extent necessary for upgrading welfare activities for the pilgrims.

CAPITAL SECTION

Major Head "4059" and "4216"

Construction and Purchase of Properties

	(Rs. in Crores)			
	Actuals 1992-93	BE 1993-94	RE 1993-94	BE 1994-95
Head 4059 Public Works (for Office buildings)	32.38	28.95	21.95	28.95
Major Head 4216 Housing Projects	9.03	5.79	22.29	5.00
Total	41.41.	34.74	44.25	33.95

62. The number of properties, used by Missions/Posts abroad, that are owned by the Government and those that are rented are as under :

	Govt. Owned	Rented
(i) Chanceries	61	80
(ii) Residences of Heads of Mission / Heads of Post	66	75
(iii) Residences of Officials other than HOMs/HOPs	509	The infor- mation is being compiled

63. The actual expenditure on rented premises in 1992-93 was Rs. 68.89 crores. The estimated expenditure under RE 93-94 was Rs. 80.53 crores.

64. The Ministry have informed the Committee that in order to implement the policy of the Government to purchase/build accommodation abroad for our Missions and houses for Our Missions' staff, a budgetary demand of Rs. 41.7 crores under Major Head 4216 was projected at the time of preparation of BE 94-95. However, in view of budgetary constraints, the allocation approved by the Ministry of Finance is Rs. 28.95 crores under Major Head 4059. An amount of Rs. 4 crores has been earmarked for purchase of built-up property and an amount of Rs. 3 crores has been set aside for repairs/renovation of government owned properties.

65. According to the Ministry, the residual provision has been kept for the projects at Dubai, Kuwait, Kualalampur and New York, that have been completed over the last two years. The contract for the Riyadh construction project has been signed in March 1994. This project envisages construction of Chancery, Embassy residence and housing for 44 officials. The construction of this project is likely to commence in April/May 94 and completed in 20 months.

66. The Ministry have further stated that the proposals are being processed for commencement of construction, during 1994-95 in Abu Dhabi (Chancery and Embassy residence), Islamabad (High Commissioner's residence, residences of officials — total units 121); the building of Foreign Service Institute, ICCR office in Calcutta, Tashkent (Chancery, Embassy residence and residence of officials) and a residential complex for MEA officials at Papankalan.

67. Preliminary planning will be undertaken during 1994-95 in regard to construction projects in Mauritius (Indian Cultural Centre), Videsh Bhawan at Janpath, MEA's housing complex in Chanakyapuri and projects at Beijing (Chancery and housing), Muscat (Chancery and Embassy residence) and Moscow.

68. Since the construction projects to be commenced in 1994-95 will be completed during the succeeding financial years, the accommodation units, that will replace the currently rented property during 1994-95, will be only those that will be required in a built-up form.

69. As regards the four projects being undertaken in Delhi, the representatives of the Ministry stated that one will be Foreign Service Training Institute building in old JNU Campus over a space of 6 acres which would also provide administration block, hostel for the IFS probationers and residence for the faculty etc. The second project is for the office building, Videsh Bhavan on the Janpath plot. Then there are two housing projects, one at Papankalan (Dwarka) for staff over an area of 4.08 acres which would have 231 dwelling

units at a cost of Rs. 16 crores and the second one is at Chanakyapuri for MEA officers on a plot of 5.3 acres which would house 60 units. The witness stated in reply to a query that they need these housing projects in view of the limited availability from the General Pool and because in practice by the time the Ministry's officials receive an offer they become due for transfer. The Foreign Secretary added in this connection that they would also need general pool accommodation and would not forego their right to General Pool.

70. The Committee note that the number of properties rented by Missions/ Posts outnumber those owned by them abroad. Consequently substantial expenditure is incurred every year on the rented premises which is estimated in RE 93-94 as Rs. 80.53 crores against the actual expenditure in 1992-93 of Rs. 60.89 crores of the BE 94-95 in this regard is Rs. 86.67 crores. In view of continuous universal increase in rentals on the buildings and shortage of accommodation for officers and staff in India, there is an imperative need to acquire/construct more and more buildings both in India and abroad so as to dispense with hired accommodations as early as possible. In this connection the curtailment of the total budget demand of Rs. 56.7 crores under Major Head 4059 and 4216 to Rs. 33.95 crores only in the Budget Estimates would affect the programme of acquisition of requisite number of buildings by the Ministry of External Affairs. Acquisition of buildings saves the Ministry's time and energy to search for suitable accommodation. It also would not have to suffer the burden of increasing rentals year after year besides effecting on efficiency to a certain extent. The Committee hope that Ministry of Finance would reconsider the matter again, at least at RE stage, and try to provide more funds for this purpose.

71. The Committee also desire that the Ministry draw up a time bound programme for the construction/acquisition of properties abroad, taking into account the long gestation period for such acquisition/construction. However, no new construction projects may be taken up by the Ministry until the current construction projects have been executed so as not to scatter the available resources. In view of the rising value of real estate the Ministry should be prepared to give due and expeditious consideration to an attractive proposal from missions/posts and if necessary seek special allocation.

72. The Ministry may also assess the total demand for official as well as residential buildings in and outside India with a view to drawing up a relevant plan in this regard. The priorities in the proposed plan could then be identified and the same could be executed in the coming years under a time bound programme.

73. The Committee note that the staff housing project in Pappankalan is to house 231 dwelling units on a plot of area of 4.08 acres. Likewise, the plot in Chanakyapuri having an area of 5.3 acres would house only 60 units. The Committee are of the opinion that though the officers complex may have bigger units but the wide disparity in both the cases should be diminished so that the number of dwelling units per unit area in both the cases do not go beyond a reasonable limit.

NEW DELHI;
April 19, 1994

Chaitra 29, 1916 (Saka)

ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on External Affairs.

MINUTES OF THE 20TH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HELD ON 4TH APRIL, 1994

The Committee sat from 1500 to 1800 hours.

PRESENT

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri V. Srinivasa Prasad
3. Shri Inder Jit
4. Dr. Girija Vyas
5. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar
6. Prof. (Smt.) Savithiri Lakshmanan
7. Shri K.P. Reddaiah Yadav
8. Shri Satya Deo Singh
9. Shri Anand Ratna Mauraya
10. Dr. Lal Bahadur Rawal
11. Shri Asht Bhuja Prasad Shukla
12. Dr. A.K. Patel
13. Shri Syed Shahabuddin
14. Shri Roshan Lal
15. Shri Sudarsan Raychaudhuri
16. Shri Sudhir Ray
17. Smt. Geeta Mukherjee
18. Shri R. Naidu Ramasamy

Rajya Sabha

19. Shri Sikander Bakht
20. Shri Somappa R. Bommai
21. Shri Jagesh Desai
22. Shri Mohammad Yunus
23. Shri Bishambar Nath Pande
24. Shri G. Swaminathan
25. Shri C.G. Swell

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri G. L. Batra — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri R.V. Warjri — *Director*
3. Shri Ashok Sarin — *Under Secretary*

Witnesses (Ministry of External Affairs)

1. Shri K. Srinivasan, Foreign Secretary
2. Shri Salman Haider, Secretary (East)
3. Shri V.K. Grover, OSD (SU)
4. Shri P.M.S. Malik, Additional Secretary (ER)
5. Shri K.P. Balakrishnan, Additional Secretary (AD)
6. Shri Arif Qamarain, Additional Secretary (CCG-15)
7. Shri Deb Mukherjee, Additional Secretary (PV&PP)
8. Shri K.M. Lal, Additional Secretary (FA)
9. Shri N.N. Desai, Director General (ICCR)
10. Shri Vijay Kumar, Joint Secretary (Coord.)
11. Shri S.S. Mukherjee, Joint Secretary (XP)

At the outset the Chairman welcomed the Members of the Committee and representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs to the 20th Sitting of the Committee. The Committee then discussed with the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs the various points arising out of the Demands for Grants (1994-95) of the Ministry. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

2. The discussion was not concluded. The Committee decided to meet again on 5th April, 1994 at 1130 hours to continue the Discussion.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE 21ST SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HELD ON 5TH APRIL, 1994

The Committee sat from 1130 hours to 1330 hours

PRESENT

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS
Lok Sabha

2. Shri Inder Jit
3. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar
4. Prof. (Smt.) Savithiri Lakshmanan
5. Smt. D.K. Thara Devi Siddhartha
6. Shri Satya Deo Singh
7. Shri Anand Ratna Mauraya
8. Dr. Lal Bahadur Rawal
9. Shri Asht Bhuja Prasad Shukla
10. Shri Syed Shahabuddin
11. Shri Mohd. Yunus Saleem
12. Shri Roshan Lal
13. Shri Sudhir Ray
14. Smt. Geeta Mukherjee

Rajya Sabha

15. Shri Sikander Bakht
16. Shri Somappa R. Bommai
17. Shri Jagesh Desai
18. Shri Mohammad Yunus
19. Shri Bishambar Nath Pande
20. Shri G. Swaminathan

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri G. L. Batra — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri R.V. Warjri — *Director*
3. Shri Ashok Sarin — *Under Secretary*

Witnesses (Ministry of External Affairs)

1. Shri K. Srinivasan, Foreign Secretary
2. Shri Salman Haider, Secretary (East)
3. Shri V.K. Grover, OSD (SU)
4. Shri P.M.S. Malik, Additional Secretary (ER)
5. Shri K.P. Balakrishnan, Additional Secretary (AD)
6. Shri Arif Qamarain, Additional Secretary (CCG-15)
7. Shri Deb Mukherjee, Additional Secretary (PV&PP)
8. Shri K.M. Lal, Additional Secretary (FA)
9. Shri N.N. Desai, Director General (ICCR)
10. Shri Vijay Kumar, Joint Secretary (Coord.)
11. Shri S.S. Mukherjee, Joint Secretary (XP)

The Committee resumed discussion on the points arising out of the Demands for Grants (1994-95) of the Ministry of External Affairs. The representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs explained and elaborated on the relevant queries from the members. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

2. As the discussion was not concluded, the Committee decided to meet again in the afternoon at 1500 hours.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE 22ND SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HELD ON 5TH APRIL, 1994

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1830 hours

PRESENT

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS
Lok Sabha

2. Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad
3. Shri Inderjit
4. Prof. (Smt.) Savithiri Lakshmanan
5. Shri Satya Deo Singh
6. Dr. Lal Bahadur Rawal,
7. Dr. A.K. Patel
8. Shri Syed Shahabuddin
9. Shri Roshan Lal
10. Shri Sudarsan Raychaudhuri
11. Shri Sudhir Ray
12. Smt. Geeta Mukherjee

Rajya Sabha

13. Shri Sikander Bakht
14. Shri Jagesh Desai
15. Shri Mohammad Yunus
16. Shri Bishambar Nath Pande
17. Shri G. Swaminathan
18. Shri G.G. Swell

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri G. L. Batra — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri R.V. Warjri — *Director*
3. Shri Ashok Sarin — *Under Secretary*

Witnesses (Ministry of External Affairs)

1. Shri K. Srinivasan, Foreign Secretary
2. Shri Salman Haider, Secretary (East)
3. Shri V.K. Grover, OSD (SU)
4. Shri P.M.S. Malik, Additional Secretary (ER)
5. Shri K.P. Balakrishnan, Additional Secretary (AD)
6. Shri Arif Qamarain, Additional Secretary (CCG-15)
7. Shri Deb Mukherjee, Additional Secretary (PV&PP)
8. Shri K.M. Lal, Additional Secretary (FA)
9. Shri N.N. Desai, Director General (ICCR)
10. Shri Vijay Kumar, Joint Secretary (Coord.)
11. Shri S.S. Mukherjee, Joint Secretary (XP)

The Committee resumed further discussion on the points arising out of the Demands for Grants (1994-95) of the Ministry of External Affairs, The representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs replied to the various queries from the Members. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

2. The Committee then decided to meet again on 15th April, 1994 at 1100 hours to consider and finalise the draft report on Demands for Grants.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HELD ON TUESDAY, THE 19TH APRIL, 1994

The Committee sat from 1000 hours to 1100 hours

PRESENT

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique
3. Shri Inder Jit
4. Dr. Girija Vyas
5. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar
6. Prof. (Smt.) Savithiri Lakshmanan
7. Dr. Lal Bahadur Rawal
8. Dr. A.K. Patel
9. Shri Syed Shahabuddin
10. Dr. Sudarsan Raychaudhuri
11. Dr. Sudhir Ray
12. Smt. Geeta Mukherjee

Rajya Sabha

13. Shri Sikander Bakht
14. Shri Nilotpal Basu
15. Shri Somappa R. Bommai
16. Shri Jagesh Desai
17. Shri Bishambar Nath Pande
18. Shri G. Swaminathan
19. Shri G.G. Swell
20. Shri Mohd. Yunus
21. Shri K. Rahman Khan

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri G. L. Batra — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri R.V. Warjri — *Director*
3. Shri Ashok Sarin — *Under Secretary*

The Committee considered the Draft Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 1994-95. The Chairman invited members to offer their suggestions for incorporation into the Draft Report. The Members made certain suggestions and desired that these suggestions be suitably incorporated into the body of the Report.

2. The Draft Report was adopted. The Committee authorised the Chairman to finalise the Report for presentation to the House.

The Committee then adjourned.