



विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
NEW DELHI

JAIDEEP MAZUMDAR
Chief of Protocol &
First Appellate Authority

Tel: 4901 8602

Fax: 4901 8603

Email: jscop@mea.gov.in

By REGISTERED POST

Dy No. **2834**/COP/2015

24 June 2015

Sub: Information sought under RTI Act 2005 by Shri Subhash Chandra Agrawal – First Appeal

Please refer to your RTI appeal dated 08 June 2015 seeking information relating to gifts presented to the foreign dignitaries.

2. The gifts are presented to the foreign dignitaries as per the following laid down rules/ norms:

A. Outgoing State / Official Visits of the VVIP (President, Vice-President and Prime Minister): In respect of VVIP visits abroad, gifts are normally presented to the following dignitaries:

- (i) Head of State and Head of Government and their spouses.
- (ii) High local dignitaries including Cabinet Ministers who call on our President/ Vice President/ Prime Minister.
- (iii) Dignitaries who will be associated with organizing of ceremonies, eg., Mayor of a city who would be involved in functions like naming of a road/ unveiling of a statue, or any other such ceremony.
- (iv) Governors/ Chief Ministers and other senior dignitaries of a State Government, which our dignitaries may visit, in addition to the Capital City.

(v) Director General of Foreign Office/ Chief of Protocol/ Head of the Territorial Division dealing with India in Foreign Office.

(vi) Senior Officials of Foreign Office, Protocol, Media, Liaison, Security, etc., who have assisted in preparation of the visit.

(vii) Any other dignitary proposed by the Mission such as Curator of a Museum, participants of a cultural show, Heads of Institutions where the VVIP may interact, etc., where it may be considered desirable to give a gift.

(viii) Interpreter(s).

(ix) Pool Gifts, as required.

B. **Incoming VVIP Visits:** Gifts may be given by the Indian host to the following:

(i) VVIP and spouse

(ii) Accompanying Cabinet Ministers

C. **Other Incoming Visits:** Gifts are to be presented only to the Leader of the visiting delegation.

D. **Outgoing Official Visits at the level of EAM and Ministers of State:** The gifts are given to the following:

(i) Counterpart in the host country

(ii) Dignitaries with whom EAM/MoS will hold meetings

(iii) Director General of Foreign Office/ Chief of Protocol/ Heads of Territorial Divisions dealing with India in the Foreign Office

(iv) Pool Gifts


E. **Outgoing visits at the level of Secretary and Senior Officials:** The gifts are given to the counterpart in the host country, dignitaries with whom they would be interacting and Pool Gifts.

F. **Financial Ceiling:** The recipients of gifts are divided into five categories, viz., Head of State, Minister, Secretary, Official and Pool level. Current monetary ceilings for the purchase of gift items for presentation to foreign dignitaries in the above 5 categories were approved by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) and are effective from May 2010. However, it would not be appropriate to reveal these ceilings as disclosure of these details may cause embarrassment to both India and the receiving governments, thereby affecting our bilateral relations. As such, exemption is sought under Section 8 (1)(a) of the RTI Act 2005 for disclosure of the same.

G. **Sourcing of Gifts:** Presently almost all the gifts are sourced State Emporia and Public Sector Undertakings.

3. The CBI had conducted an investigation into the complaints about gifts items and submitted a report. In this connection, a reply bearing No. Q/Vig/551/10/15 dated 19 June 2015 from Under Secretary (Vigilance) & CPIO is attached.

4. The appeal is accordingly disposed of.


(Jaideep Mazumdar)

Shri Subhash Chandra Agrawal, 1775, Kucha Lattushah, Dariba, Chandni Chowk, Delhi-110006

Email: subhashchandraagrawal@gmail.com

Subhashagrawal1950@gmail.com

Copy to:

DCP (P), CPIO, MEA, New Delhi, dcpp@mea.gov.in

US (RTI), MEA, New Delhi, usrti@mea.gov.in

PO (XMM), MEA New Delhi, poxmm@meaindia.in

NO.

New Delhi the _____ 20

No.Q/Vig/551/10/2015

19th June, 2015

Shri Subhash Chandra Agrawal
T775, Kucha Lattushah
Dariba, Chandi Chowk, Delhi-6
subhashchandraagrawal@gmail.com

Subject : - Information sought under RTI Act 2005

Sir,

Please refer to your RTI application dated 05.05.2015 which has been received by the undersigned CPIO vide endorsement letter no. D-II/551/1/2015-Sh Agrawal dated 5.6.2015 of Shri Anil Nautiyal, DCP(P) & CPIO relating to gifts presented to foreign dignitaries.

2. The CBI had conducted investigation into the complaints about gift items and submitted a report. As CBI is exempt under section 24 of the RTI Act, 2005, their report cannot be shared.
3. In case you are not satisfied with the above reply, you may appeal within 30 days to the Appellate authority in this Ministry at the following address: Joint Secretary (CNV)/Appellate Authority, Ministry of External Affairs, South Block, 163, New Delhi 110011.



(Shivaji Sen)

Under Secretary (Vigilance) & CPIO

Copy to :-

1. Under Secretary (RT) (original application Registration No. MOEAF/R/2015/01230 dt. 07/05/2015).
2. DCP(Privileges) & CPIO, MEA New Delhi