

contd.. Table-III

c) Rail	c) Rail travel in A.C. II tier for an ex-MP along with a companion was allowed w.e.f. 18.01.1999.	c) For self-travel, A.C. II tier, if along with a companion. First A.C. / Executive Class, if traveling alone.
d) Medical	d) if residing in cities covered by CGHS on payment of nominal monthly contribution.	d) Same.

* for attending session/committee meetings or any other business.
** by any airline.

Source : *The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 and the rules made thereunder as amended up to date.*

geared to promote peace, happiness, prosperity and justice for the common man. Let us not forget that monarchy became an object of hatred when the misrule and misuse of authority by the king became unbearable, with rulers spending bulk of the State revenues for their own pleasures and enjoyments and their subjects continued to suffer.

In the '60s, the Government of India had abolished Privy Purses on the professed ground that continuance was no longer justified as the princes did not serve any useful public purpose. Much of the privileges and perquisites of their MPs, ex-MPs, ex-PMs, ex-Presidents, ex-Vice Presidents now look more like 'Privy Purses' unconnected with any public purpose. It is interesting to note that the expenditure incurred for the Council of Ministers and the Prime Minister in the last year was Rs. 122.52 crore which is nearly half of the expenditure for the Lok Sabha and Rs.

30.29 crore more than the expenditure for the Rajya Sabha. On top of it, the expenditure of Rs. 79.46 crore for the Special Protection Group, if added, would make our Council of Ministers, the Parliament and the office of the President; extremely high cost public institutions. (see Table 4)

I do not wish to bring the office of the President into controversy and, therefore, while withholding my comment on his personal emoluments, cannot refrain from expressing my dismay over the magnitude of expenditure incurred on maintaining a palatial and sprawling Rashtrapati Bhawan.

While millions of people in the country have no shelter worth the name, I cannot see any justification in one person or a family occupying over 350 rooms!

The aforesaid facts and circumstances have contributed to the decline of Parliament in public esteem. In this context, it is neces-

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