

Times 25-5-70 Outlay on Ministers doubled in decade

NEW DELHI, August 23.

OVERALL expenditure on Ministers at the Centre and in the States have more than doubled in the last 10 years, although the increase in their strength is slightly less.

According to a UNI study based on figures available for the last 10 years the number of Ministers has gone up from 294 in 1961 to 455 in 1970-71. The expenditure on their salaries, personal establishments, travelling and other expenses has sharply risen from around Rs. 1.2 crores to about Rs. 2.70 crores over the last decade.

The figures do not include Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territories for which data is not available.

The total budgetary provision for the salaries, allowances and travel for the Union Council of Ministers in 1960-61 was Rs. 19,39,400. This figure has gone up to Rs. 30 lakhs, provision for 1970-71. While tour expenses were Rs. 7 lakhs in 1960-61, these will be Rs. 14.40 lakhs in 1970-71. The strength of the Council of Ministers in 1960-61 was about 47 compared to the present strength of 56.

STATEWISE DATA

Andhra Pradesh: Expenditure on ministerial salaries and perquisites increased three-fold while the strength of the Ministry doubled in the last decade.

The current year's budget provision for Ministers and their establishment including perquisites is Rs. 21.89 lakhs against Rs. 7.22 lakhs in 1961-62.

Assam: There has been a threefold rise in the expenditure while the strength of the Council of Ministers rose only by three. There were 17 Ministers in 1960-61 and the number is 20 this year.

The 1960-61 budgetary provision for salaries was Rs. 1.14 lakhs, travelling allowance Rs. 1.29 lakhs, hospitality and entertainment Rs. 62,000, discretionary grants Rs. 31,000, residential telephones Rs. 35,000, salaries and travelling expenses of the officers attached to Ministers Rs. 3.20 lakhs.

The comparable figures for this year are salaries—Rs. 2,20,000, travelling allowance Rs. 3.20 lakhs, entertainment and hospitality—Rs. 84,000, discretionary grants—Rs. 35,500, residential telephones—Rs. 75,000, salaries and allowances of officers—Rs. 8.5 lakhs.

Bihar: There is no great difference

in the number of Ministers now and 10 years ago—23 in 1960-61 and 24 now. The budgetary provision on the Ministers and their personal staff, however, has shot up from about Rs. 14,83,000 to Rs. 23,06,000.

Gujarat: The Ministry's strength has risen from 14 to 17 and the ministerial expenditure, from around Rs. 8 lakhs to around Rs. 14 lakhs.

Haryana: The State did not exist in 1960-61 but was carved out of Punjab in 1966. The budgetary provision this year for Ministers' salaries and other amenities is Rs. 4.58 lakhs. This does not include travelling and other expenses.

Erstwhile Punjab had 18 members in the Council of Ministers and their salaries and perquisites cost the exchequer Rs. 4.50 lakhs.

Now Haryana has 15 Ministers of Cabinet rank and four Parliamentary Secretaries. The truncated Punjab State has 25 in the Council of Ministers and the budgetary provision on them this year is Rs. 7 lakhs. These figures do not include travelling expenses.

Kerala: In 1960-61, the State had a Congress-PSP coalition Ministry with 11 Ministers. For the Ministers' salaries, establishment, T.A. and other contingencies, the expenditure came to Rs. 5,88,631.

In 1970-71, Kerala budgeted for eight Ministers (mini-front Government) at Rs. 14,38,000. Not only is there a rise in the pay of Ministers from Rs. 1,90,787 in 1960-61 to Rs. 2,80,000 in 1970-71, but a very steep rise is visible in the establishment costs and the allowances.

M.P. OUTLAY

Madhya Pradesh: The strength of the Ministry has almost doubled from 22 in 1960 to 39 now.

The estimated expenditure on Ministerial salaries, allowances and perquisites was Rs. 5.19 lakhs in 1960 and the current year's provision is Rs. 10.21 lakhs.

Maharashtra: The expenditure on the Ministry particularly on salaries has almost doubled during the last 10 years though the strength of the Ministry has increased by four only—from 26 to 30.

The State is expected this year to spend Rs. 5.03 lakhs on Ministers' salaries alone as against a budget provision of Rs. 2.88 lakhs in 1960-61. Provision of Rs. 12.55 lakhs is made for travelling allowances as against Rs. 4.16 lakhs in 1960-61.

The expenditure on contingencies is Rs. 2.5 lakhs as against Rs. 91,000 ten years ago. For personal establishment a provision of Rs. 9.36 lakhs is made as against Rs. 3.16 lakhs in 1960-61.

The total actual expenditure on all the four heads exceeded the budget limit by Rs. 5 lakhs in 1960-61 and was about Rs. 16.11 lakhs in the last 10 years.

As against the total expenditure of Rs. 5.29 lakhs in 1960-61, the current year's budget provision is Rs. 15.63 lakhs. The amount under contingencies has risen from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 2,70 lakhs.

In February 1960, the Council of Ministers had 11 members. In the coalition, the strength is 19 ministers.

Uttar Pradesh: The strength of the Ministry has more than doubled from 15 to 36 now. The provision for this year is Rs. 30,18,000 expenditure a decade ago was Rs. 8 lakhs.

present

Cabinet

Rajasthan:

nistry has

14 in 1960-61

in the current

while the actual

ago was around Rs.

Tamil Nadu: The

Ministry has risen from 8

the decade. The budgeted expenditure

on Ministers and their personal staff

this year is Rs. 10.57 lakhs compared

to Rs. 4.27 lakhs in 1960-61.

Uttar Pradesh: The State very nearly

equals the Union Council of Ministers

in strength—from 22 members in

1960-61 it has risen to 46 now, just 10

short of the Union Council of Ministers.

The expenditure on the Minister

in 1960-61 was Rs. 5,82,500 and Rs.

10,07,200 this year. The 1970-71 budget

does not provide for the salaries and

other expenses for the 13 Ministers

who have been included after the

budget.

West Bengal: The State had 29 Ministers

in 1960-61 and the provision for

their salaries was Rs. 1,62,000. The

second United Front Ministry which

was replaced by President's rule this

year had 29 Ministers and the budget

provision was Rs. 1,77,000.—UNI.

Mysore: The expenditure on Ministers

and their establishment has

gone up by nearly seven times from

Rs. 4.11 lakhs to Rs. 28.50 lakhs dur-

ing the last 10 years while the number

of Ministers had only doubled. The

increase in expenditure is mostly at-

tributed to the expansion of the Min-

isters' establishment.

Ministers' salary Rs

of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence from a mechanised vessel in the Bombay harbour early this morning.

Acting on information that a mechanised vessel had set sail for the high seas to receive gold from an Arab dhow, the official lay in wait. This morning the official noticed a fishing vessel proceeding towards Dharukhana.

As the contraband-carrying vessel approached the shores, the Customs vessel started closing in. Despite poor visibility, the smugglers smelt danger, and tried to get away by taking a zig-zag course, but it was in vain.

As the customs personnel seized the contraband vessel and climbed on board, they found that the treasure was not on board but had been plunged deep into the sea and the rope could not be pulled up easily.

Divers brought up a haul of 17 bundles of gold jackets, collectively valued at over Rs 74.73 lakhs.

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DISPUTED

AREAS'