

PASSPORTS AND VISAS FOR TRAVEL
BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

*553. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) how many Passports have been issued and visas have been granted so far under the new passport system between India and Pakistan;

(b) what arrangements have been made for the purpose; and

(c) what would be the annual expenditure for carrying on the system?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Up to 31st October 1952, 5,500 special passports and 2,712 visas for India had been issued. This does not include Indian passports valid for international travel which can also be made valid for visits to Pakistan.

(b) All State Governments in India. District Magistrates in Assam, West Bengal, Tripura and Purnea district of Bihar have been authorised to issue special passports valid for travel to Pakistan only, and necessary staff and equipment has been provided to them. Two Commissioners and four Deputy Commissioners in the Punjab have also been given powers to issue passports and Emergency Certificates to Special categories, like pilgrims, goodwill missions and in connection with recovery of abducted persons. For issue of visas to Pakistan nationals, visa offices have been set up at Karachi, Lahore and Dacca. Shipping Masters at Bombay and Calcutta have also been authorised to grant visas to Pakistani seamen arriving at those ports.

(c) The annual expenditure cannot be precisely estimated until the volume of traffic is stabilised. For the six months from October 1952 to March 1953, the expenditure is estimated at Rs. 29 lakhs, of which Rs. 9 lakhs is on account of the Visa Offices in Pakistan, 2 lakhs for contributions to State Governments for passport work, 14 lakhs for printing of passport booklets and forms and 2½ lakhs for setting up of check-posts on the East Bengal frontier. The balance covers expenditure at headquarters and on equipment. The entire expenditure is expected to be covered by receipts.

Shri B. K. Das: With reference to answer to part (a), may I have the breakup of figures for West and East Pakistan?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I am afraid I have not got the information with me here.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know, Sir, the number of repatriation certificates issued?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Repatriation certificates issued by us? I have not got the figures here. The question referred only to passports.

Shri B. K. Das: With reference to part (c) of the question, may I know whether the expenditure stated by the hon. Minister includes expenditure that had already been incurred with reference to international passports?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: No, Sir, This refers only to the new arrangement.

Shri B. K. Das: What are special arrangements for issuing certificates to migrants to India from East Pakistan?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The High Commissioner's office in Dacca has been authorised to issue these certificates.

Mr. Speaker: The question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS

HINDUSTAN SHIPYARD

*542. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state what is the maximum production capacity of Visakhapatnam Shipyards and how many ships are under construction in that Yard at present?

(b) How many workers are employed on the construction of ships in Visakhapatnam and how many months does it take to turn out a ship in this Yard?

(c) Are the raw materials for the construction of ships available and is the Yard being utilised to its full capacity?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Two berths are in operation. A third berth is almost complete. Two ships are on the keel. One ship is under repairs.

(b) The number of workers was 3714 on 14th October, 1952. Provided supply of material, particularly steel, is regular and according to programme a ship will be ready for delivery ten months after the laying of the keel.

(c) The yard is not, always utilised to its full capacity, owing to certain difficulties regarding supplies of steel and machinery.