

**Passport Office, Ahmedabad**

464. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANDOLA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the number of applications pending with Ahmedabad passport Office for the issue of Passport for the period April, 1995 to April, 1996;

(b) the number of applications pending with this office even after the receipt of police verification;

(c) the reasons for delay and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether middlemen have got their dominance in the passport office; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I K GUJRAL) : (a) The total number of applications pending with Ahmedabad Passport Office for the issue of passport for the period April 95 to April 96 is 10,630

(b) The number of applications pending with this office even after the receipt of police verification is 2,300

(c) The reasons for delay are two fold: (a) receipt of adverse police reports, and (b) non compliance by applicants of procedural requirements pointed out by the Passport Issuing Authority. After receipt of adverse reports, the Passport Office advises the applicants to approach the concerned DCP/DSP with original documents/court order to get clear reports from them on the basis of which passports are then issued

(d) No, Sir. The Passport Office, Ahmedabad accepts passport applications from applicants and authorised agents only. Moreover, enquiries from applicants with regard to the status of their applications for passport and other services are also entertained by the officers from the applicants directly thus eliminating the role of middlemen

(e) Does not arise.

**Irregularities in Navodaya Vidyalayas**

465 SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY  
KUMARI UMA BHARTI

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether there has been rapid increase in the incidents of financial irregularities in Navodaya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof, and

(e) the action taken against the persons found guilty therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) No, Sir

(b) to (e) Do not arise

[English]

**Central Assistance for Irrigation Projects**

466. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Rajasthan Government had sought additional Central assistance for some important irrigation projects.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government to allocate fund in 1996-97 for those irrigation projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) No request for additional Central assistance for the irrigation project has been received from the Government of Rajasthan during the year 1996-97

(b) and (c) Do not arise

**Depletion of Underground Water**

467. SHRI K.C KONDAIAH Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of depletion of underground water in some parts of Karnataka in recent years the availability of drinking water has been adversely affected.

(b) if so, steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide financial and technical assistance to the State Government for the purpose, and

(c) achievements thereby ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) A long term analysis of ground water level for the years 1985 to 1995 indicates decline of ground water levels by more than 4 metres in some parts of the State affecting the availability of drinking water

(b) On receipt of a proposal from Government of Karnataka, Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment released a sum of Rs 10 crores in the year 1995