

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a)**

(a) Location of Regional Passport Office	Jurisdiction
1. Ahmedabad	Gujarat and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
2. Bombay	Maharashtra.
3. Chandigarh	Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.
4. Calcutta	West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura and the Union Territories of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.
5. Delhi	Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan and the Union Territory of Delhi.
6. Ernakulam	Kerala and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.
7. Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh.
8. Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
9. Madras	Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Union Territory of Pondichery.

As regards Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Union Territory of Goa, Daman & Diu, the Union Territory Administrations there are empowered to issue passports.

(b) Yes, Sir. The strength of the various offices is currently under review, which will take into account the increase in the rate of inflow of applications.

(c) and (d). The Rules made under the Passports Act, 1967 are

being reviewed with the object of simplifying the procedures and thus reduce the time lag between submission of applications and issue of passports. Measures are being taken to standardise office procedures and improve systems in the offices so that processing delays in the grant of passports are also minimised.

**Transport and accommodation facilities to women telephone operators of Delhi**

3528. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI :  
SHRI K. KUNHAMBU :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that women telephone operators of Delhi are facing problems of transport and accommodation; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to solve these problems?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA) : (a) and (b). The P & T staff like other Government employees use the facilities provided by the Delhi Transport Corporation. These facilities are adequate. The local Telephone authorities are in constant touch with the Delhi Transport Corporation for adjustment of routes and timings as necessary to the extent possible to suit the convenience of the staff.

The problem of accommodation is not peculiar to the telephone operators of Delhi but is faced by others staff in Delhi and all over the country. The percentage staff satisfaction of quarters is 6.23 for the whole country. The staff satisfaction in Delhi Telephone District is 10.80 per cent for all the staff and 11.4 per cent in respect of officials eligible for type II quarters in which category the telephone operators are classified. The

Department is constructing 266 quarters in Delhi this year. Construction of more quarters would be taken up based on availability of capital resources.

#### Kudremukh Iron Ore Project

3529. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in terms of the agreement entered into with Iran on the Kudremukh Iron Ore Project the work is split up into phases for completion in a time-bound schedule;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) how much amount of the loan, according to the agreement will become payable by Iran on completion of each phase of the work with full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):

(a) to (c). The Financial Agreement with the Imperial Government of Iran provides for financing the development of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Project and the related infrastructural facilities on the basis of a total credit not exceeding U.S. \$ 630 million from Iran. The Agreement is linked to the Purchase Contract concluded on 4-11-1975 which provides for the production and delivery of approximately 150 million tons of iron ore concentrate to the National Iranian Steel Industries Company over a period of about 21 years commencing from September, 1980. Under the Agreement an advance of \$ 100 million was received on the 23rd February, 1976. Further disbursement of loan under the Financial Agreement is related to the pace of actual expenditure on the project, and not to the completion of specified phases of work as such. The next draw-down will be admissible after the expenditure from the aforesaid advance of \$ 100 million has exceeded \$ 75 million.

#### Khetri Copper Smelter Capacity

3530. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for under-utilisation of Khetri copper smelter capacity;

(b) the ore requirement per day and actual availability thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not planning adequate supplies of ore beforehand and the steps being taken to increase the supply to the required quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):

(a) The main reasons for under-utilisation of capacity of Khetri Smelter are the shortage in the supply of copper ore, and technological problems at the Smelter due to which its operations have not yet stabilised.

(b) The average requirement of ore per day for full capacity utilisation of this plant is 9,600 tonnes. The actual average daily availability of copper ore during 1976-77 was around 3800 tonnes; this is expected to go up to 4500 tonnes during 1977-78.

(c) The rate of production build-up at the Khetri Copper Complex has been slower than envisaged primarily due to the difficulties of hard rock underground metal mining operations. The Hindustan Copper Ltd. have taken a number of steps for speeding up mining operations. These include construction of independent mine entry systems, introduction of trackless mining operations, training of Company's Mining Engineers in similar mining operations abroad and training of miners and operators at the mines with the help of expatriate specialists under CIDA Miner Training Programme. The Hindustan Copper Ltd. have also engaged a well known firm of Mining Consultants to help them in bringing about improvements in their Mining plans and for increasing the present rate of production of ore at the project. As a result of the steps taken, the ore production at Khetri Copper Project has