

*[English]***STD/PCO in Andhra Pradesh**

1788. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM:
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the demand at present for ISD/STD/PCOs in Andhra Pradesh district-wise;

(b) the number of such applications pending at present district-wise;

(c) the numbers of PCOs sanctioned during 1993-94, district-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to clear the applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d). The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Smuggling of Globe into India**

1789. SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appeared in "Jansatta" dated February 5, 1994 regarding sale of a globe which showed Jammu & Kashmir as a disputed territory;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether these globes are available in Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Such globes have reportedly been brought into Kerala mostly by the Indians returning from the Gulf;

(e) Indian Embassies in the concerned Gulf countries have been asked to take up the matter with the respective Foreign Offices. Our Customs authorities have already alerted their field offices in this regard to prevent import of such globes and have made some seizures. Kerala state government has also been asked to take necessary action to prevent circulation of such globes.

*[English]***Ahmedabad Passport Office**

1790. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending applications in the Ahmedabad Passport Office;

(b) the reasons for delay and the steps taken to ensure minimum time in grant of passports;

(c) whether take and stolen passports were seized from an Ahmedabad-based recruiting agent;

(d) if so the details thereof;