

Certification has objected to the screening of some new films during the past few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in spite of objections by CBFC, the films have been approved and given no objection certificates; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as early as possible.

[*Translation*]

#### **New Passport Offices in Gujarat**

1926. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open new passport offices in Surat and Rajkot in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of passport offices proposed to be opened in the country during 1994-95, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The opening of new Passport Offices is based on various parameters including work-load and resources available. The opening of new Passport Offices does not

itself improve the service until the necessary infrastructure and personnel are available. The Government is, therefore, concentrating on clearing the backlog of pending applications, trying to cut down on delays in issuing passports and streamlining and simplifying procedures.

[*English*]

#### **Acquisition of Container Vessels**

1927. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic shipping industry has made any request for level playing field for the acquisition of container vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). The Government decided in May, 1992 to throw open, to all Indian Shipping Companies, those liner routes where the three Indian Shipping companies (viz. Shipping Corporation of India, India Steamship Company and Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited) are not operating. Government have not received any request from the domestic shipping industry for revision of this policy.

#### **Foreign Investment for Power Generation**

1928. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some investment agreements for power generation have been signed between India and some foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the terms of reference of such agreements;

(c) whether such power generation programmes are also proposed to be undertaken in Sikkim;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No agreements are signed with foreign countries for investment proposals from foreign private parties in power generation. Prospective investors directly offer proposals to the State Electricity Boards either in response to an invitation for bid or through negotiations.

(b) 75 offers of interest from private sector companies including 35 from foreign investors/NRIs have been received for setting up power plants in India. The terms of agreement are finalised with the promoter by the State Electricity Board concerned under the policy framework prepared by the Government of India.

(c) to (e). Sikkim Government have advertised the following projects for implementation by private sector companies. Response is a waited:

1. Teesta St. V (660 MW)
2. Teesta -III (1200 MW)

### Construction of Roads under CRF in Kerala

1929. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE:  
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of roads constructed under CRF in Kerala during each of the last five years;

(b) the reasons of delay in the completion of these roads;

(c) the new roads proposed to be taken-up in the State under CRF; and

(d) the funds allocated/released so far, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Four roads were constructed under Central Road Fund during the last five years in Kerala. The delay in completion of these roads as reported by the State Public Works Departments who are responsible for the execution and monitoring of these works, is due to financial constraints, incapability of the contractors and objections from the Forest Department.

(c) One road work. i.e. Link road connecting NH 47 to NH-17 from Mannuthy to Thriuvathra via Trichur, Guruvayoor, costing Rs. 120.00 lakhs has been sanctioned under Central Road Fund.

(d) Funds under Central Road Fund are released in lumpsum and not projectwise.