

(c) the specific steps taken/proposed to be taken for the issue of passport within a stipulated time schedule during the last three years and the results achieved thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed for computerisation and streamlining of the working of passport offices in Bombay and Goa respectively ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri R. L. Bhatia) : (a) The total number of passports issued per year during the last three years against the total number of applications received by Regional Passport Office, Bombay and Passport Office, Goa is as follows :

Year		1992	1993	1994
Applications received	Bombay	259374	211059	202643
	Goa	20137	16065	14051
Passports issued	Bombay	280822	209480	208282
	Goa	20821	16015	13681

The Average time taken to issue fresh passport by both RPO, Bombay and PO, Goa is five weeks. The total number of passport applications pending as on March 31, 1995 at RPO, Bombay and Passport Office, Goa was 23,531 and 1,881 respectively.

(b) Statistics of such nature are not maintained in the passport offices. However, delay in issue of passports in such cases is due to incomplete passport application forms and negative of incomplete police reports.

(c) and (d) Government have and continue to take steps to streamline the working of passport offices and issue passports expeditiously, like augmentation of staff strength, upgradation of office facilities including computerisation, review of systems and procedures in order to reduce delays, regular inspection of passport offices and follow-up action. As a result, both, Regional Passport Office, Bombay and Passport Office, Goa are issuing passports within a period of five weeks.

POWER CO-GENERATION PLANT IN NELLORE

1943. Shri M. V. V. S. Murthy : Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state :

(a) whether International Group Inc. of U.S.A. propose to set up a power co-generation plant in Nellore in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government have approved the proposal;

(c) if so, the total power generation capacity of the plant and the estimated cost thereof; and

(d) the time by which the work on the plant is likely to be started ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Power (Shrimati Urmilaben Chimambhai Patel) : (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Government of Andhra Pradesh and M/s GSX International Group Inc., Houston, U.S.A. for setting up of 530 MW co-

generation plant at Nellore or Kakinada. The project would be considered for techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) as soon as all necessary clearances/inputs are tied-up. The estimated cost of the project could be indicated after the project received techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority.

(d) Construction work on the plant could commence after the project had obtained all necessary clearances and achieved financial closure.

CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGES

**1944. Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu :
Dr. Jayanta Rongpi :**

Will the Minister of Surface Transport be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the bridges being constructed or likely to be constructed across National Waterways in the country, Statewise;

(b) the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from State Governments in regard to construction of more bridges during the current Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action to be taken by the Union Government on each of those proposals?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Shri Jagdish Tytler) : (a) and (b) The union government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways and Nation waterways only. The information is as under :

(i) A 880 m long bridge on NH-2 across national waterway-1 is proposed to be constructed across river Hooghly in Calcutta. The feasibility studies for the project have been carried out.

(ii) A 2285 m long rail-cum-road bridge across National Waterway No. 2 i.e. river Brahmaputra at Jogighopa in Assam connecting N + 31 B and N + 37 is under construction. Its cost as worked out in 1992 is Rs. 482 crores. The physical progress of the bridge is 90%.

(iii) A 1270 m long Bridge across Ganga on Varanasi-Ramnagar-Mughal Sarai bypass on NH2 in Uttar Pradesh was sanctioned for Rs. 47.72 crores in 1986. Physical progress of the bridge is 81%.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

DEMAND AND AVILABILITY OF POWER IN TAMIL NADU

1945. Dr. (Shrimati) K. S. Soundaram : Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a wide gap between demand and