

(a) whether News Readers of All India Radio have been agitating against grant of extension of service beyond 60 years;

(b) if so, the number of such extensions granted during the last three years;

(c) the reason for granting such extensions; and

(d) the corrective steps taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Some representations to this effect have been received.

(b) Four officers have been granted extension beyond the age of 60 years during the last three years.

(c) The extensions have been granted in view of exigencies of work and were in public interest.

(d) Does not arise.

Communication System in West Bengal

2203. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to strengthen the present communication system in West Bengal, particularly, in district Midnapore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. 8th Five Year Plan (1992-97) objectives aim at strengthening of the Telecommunication system by way of expansion and modernisation of Telephone Exchange network in the country including West Bengal. The 8th Plan objectives envisage to

- Achieve fully automatic network (already achieved).
- Replace life expired and worn out switches as and when they become life expired.
- Replace all strowger MAX-III exchanges by electronic exchanges.
- Replace all line finder type MAX-II exchanges by electronic exchanges.
- Provide ducting for local network.

Steps taken for expansion of telephone exchange network have resulted in addition of 150569 new telephone connections in W. Bengal during the first 3 years (1.4.92 to 31.3.95) of the 8th Five Year Plan. During current year 1995-96) 127400 new telephone connections are planned to be provided in the State.

As on 31.3.95 in the District of Midnapore 85 Nos. of exchanges were working with equipped capacity of 18536 lines and 11816 working connections. 84 out of these 85 exchanges are of electronic type. During year 1995-96 a net addition of about 6300 lines of switching capacity has been planned for exchanges of Midnapore Disttt. In addition three new telephone exchanges are also planned to be set up in the District during the current year at

(i) Shyam Sundar Patna (Commissioned)

(ii) Purusottampur; and

(iii) Naroj.

[Translation]

Contribution of Unorganised Sector in employment

2204. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "Unorganised sectors contribute more to employment growth" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated July 6, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG) : (a), (b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The news item appears to be based on the Planning Commission's Paper on Employment Generation in the Eighth Plan placed before the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation. This Paper indicates that about half of the additional employment generated during the first three years of the Eighth Five Year Plan is estimated to have been generated in agriculture and allied sectors. The other major contributors to employment growth are the trade and transport sector, the manufacturing sector and community, social and personal services.

Unorganised sector accounts for about 90% of the total employment in the country and is also employment intensive. It is therefore, to be expected that it would continue to contribute significantly to employment generation. Quality of employment in these sectors is expected to improve with steps like skill development and improved access to credit, marketing and other inputs and to social security.

Development of Hilly Areas

2205. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether assistance is provided by the Union Government for the development of hilly areas of some States;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted therefor;

(c) whether Technical Committee of the working group constituted by the Planning Commission during Seventh Five Year Plan had identified some areas of Madhya Pradesh as hilly areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government provide additional assistance for the development of above areas of Madhya

Pradesh as is provided for the development of hilly areas of other States; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (f). Special Central Assistance is given to designated hill areas under Hill Area Development Programme and to designated talukas under Western Ghats Development Programme. Based on the recommendations of the Working Group on Hill Areas of the Seventh Plan. Planning Commission had set up an Expert Group to go into the question of delineation of new hilly areas in the country in May, 1986. However, it has been decided not to extend the Hill Area Development Programme to new hill areas in any State, including Madhya Pradesh, during the Eighth Plan owing to paucity of funds.

National Media Centre

2206. DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to close down its unit in National Media Centre, Shastri Bhavan shortly;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the schemes formulated by the Government for the employees working there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

Employment Scheme

2207. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn a blue-print for creation of 8 million new jobs every year from 1996-97; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Fake Passports

2208. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases of fake passport has come to the notice of the Union Government during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government are adopting any measures to check such practice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Specific information relating to fake passports is not maintained by the Central Government. However, the data on cases registered under the "Indian Passport Act" (inclusive of forged passports) is received in the National Crime Records Bureau and the same for the years 1991 to 1994 (State-wise and Union Territory-wise) is furnished in the enclosed *Statement*.

(c) and (d). In order to guard against forgery of Indian passports, various security measures including ultra-violet features, central stitching with ultra violet glow, lamination of data page with ultra violet features, micro printing, water marks, security paper having chemical reactivity etc. have been introduced.

STATEMENT

Incidence of cases registered under Indian Passport Act during 1991 to 1994 (State/UT-wise)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1991	1992	1993	1994
1	2	3	4	5	6
States :					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	2	0	0
3.	Assam	8	26	20	4
4.	Bihar	5	1	0	0
5.	Goa	0	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	50	52	42	93
7.	Haryana	0	0	3	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	48	7	5	29
10.	Karnataka	6	4	11	3
11.	Kerala	10	8	63	45
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	4	0
13.	Maharashtra	50	769	541	1033
14.	Manipur	0	0	0	9
15.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
16.	Mizoram	0	0	0	8
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	0	0	0	9
19.	Punjab	80	43	42	85
20.	Rajasthan	106	127	97	121
21.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	118	58	564	5
23.	Tripura	0	0	7	0