

the country, State-wise, against whom inquiries or court cases are pending at present;

(b) whether any time-bound programme is being implemented for disposal of these cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND CULTURE (SHRI K P. SINGH DEO) :
(a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). Court proceedings and departmental proceedings being judicial/quasi-judicial in nature, no time bound programme has been prescribed for their disposal.

[English]

Development of the Unit of Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Darjeeling

650. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a unit of the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants is functioning at Tung in the District of Darjeeling; and

(b) if so, what are the proposals of Government to develop it further during the Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project would be further strengthened during the seventh Plan period provided suitable land is made available by the Government of West Bengal.

Outlay for States

651. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the outlay for each state

for the Seventh Five Year Plan has been finalised;

(b) if so, the amount for each State, approved by the working group; and

(c) what steps are being taken for the development of backward districts of each state during the period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) to (c). The Seventh Five Year Plans of the States have not yet been finalised.

Procedure for Disposal of Passport Applications

652. SHRI R.P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to streamline the existing procedure for grant of passports in order to ensure speedy disposal of passport applications;

(b) whether it is a fact that normally applicants have to wait for three to four months for their passports even though document submitted by them are complete in all respects;

(c) whether any instructions have been issued to the passport officers for disposal of passport applications within the time limit prescribed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken to streamline the existing procedure for speedy and time-bound disposal of applications ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) :
(a) The present procedure for grant of passports is fairly streamlined. Government is continuously reviewing procedure with a view to further streamlining this procedure and to render expeditiously miscellaneous passport services.

(b) No Sir. If the applications are properly filled in and all formalities are completed, the Passport Issuing Authorities are under instructions to issue passports within a period of seven working days.