

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) to (c). A site near Khejuri village in Midnapur district of West Bengal is one of the sites considered by the Site Selection Committee and assessment on this site is included in the Committee's report for the Eastern Electricity Region. The report is under consideration of the Government.

**Pending Passport Applications in  
Regional Passport Office,  
Hyderabad**

2449. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passport applications pending at Hyderabad passport office;

(b) number of passports issued at Hyderabad during the years 1983-1984 and in 1985 till date; and

(c) the steps being taken to reduce delays in issuing of passports at Hyderabad ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B.R. BHAGAT) :

(a) 9,395 (As on 1.11.1985)

under 3 months—6,721

over 3 months—2,674

(b) 1983—1,19,907 (Jan.—Dec. 83)

1984— 82,654 (Jan.—Dec. 84)

1985— 33,679 (Jan.—Oct. 85)

(c) The Passport Office, Hyderabad had issued passports during the last 3 months as follows :

<i>Passport applications</i>		
	<i>Receipt</i>	<i>Disposal</i>
August, 85	3,509	3,873
Sept. 85	3,965	6,818
Oct. 85	3,772	8,466

From the above it is seen that the output of the office is progressively increasing and the arrears have declined and reduced to just over one month's output. The pendency is entirely due to late of non-receipt of Police verification reports or non-completion of application forms by passport applicants. Normally passports are issued within a period of 5 working days after receipt of both security and identity verification reports on the Passport applicant.

**Posting of husband and wife  
employees at one place**

2450. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered the question of issuing a circular for posting husband and wife employees of Central Government at the same place;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, when will it be considered ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The question has been considered from time to time but it has not been found feasible to issue any general orders in the matter. However all requests for posting at one place of both the husband and wife, who are Central Government employees, receive sympathetic consideration subject to administrative requirements and exigencies of service.

**Applications of freedom fighters  
pending disposal**

2451. SHRI A. CHARLES : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of freedom fighters to whom pension has been granted by Government of India during the year 1984-85; and

(b) the number of applications pending with the Ministry as on 1 November, 1985 with the year-wise break up showing the number of applications received from the State Governments during the last two years with their recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) The number of freedom fighters and the dependents of deceased freedom fighters who have been sanctioned Samman Pension during the Years 1984 and 1985 (upto 31st October, 1985) is 4240 and 4237 respectively.

(b) The number of pending applications as on 1st November, 1985 is 85,293. Since last date of receipt of applications was 31.3.1982 now we are receiving the verification reports from State Governments. The number of verification reports received from State Governments during 1984 and 1985 (upto 31.10.85) is 18,124 and 29,557 respectively. Most of these reports have been disposed of.

**International Task Force Report on Tropical Forests**

2452. SHRI CHINTAMANI

PANIGRAHI :  
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an International Task Force report which has placed India among the 56 critical countries having serious destruction of tropical forests.

(b) if so, the recommendations made to expand the social forestry programme, to intensify efforts to initiate tree farming on degraded forest lands and agricultural wastelands, to give strong support to multipurpose farm forestry particularly involving the landless in tree crop farming and also strengthen forestry extension and research, concentrating research on technologies that can help improve bio-mass productivity; and

(c) the measures Government propose to take or have already taken to achieve the desired results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have set up a National Wastelands Development Board with the object of bringing five million hectares of land every year under fuelwood and fodder plantation. A people's movement for afforestation is being developed. The efforts cover degraded forest land and agricultural wasteland and aim at involving the landless in tree crop farming. Forestry extension and research aiming at higher bio-mass productivity would also receive attention.

(c) The National Wastelands Development Board have drawn up a strategy and have issued guidelines for action to the State/UTs and the matter is being pursued with a view to achieve an annual afforestation of five million hectares as early as possible.

**Manufacturing and price policy of Indian V.C.R.**

2453. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an expert team from the Department of Electronics visited Japan, and Europe to study the possibility of having collaborations with in companies in these countries for the manufacture of V.C.R.;

(b) what are the conditions set for the collaboration;

(c) whether the manufacture of V.C.R. will be in the public sector or private sector or joint sector; and

(d) what is the likely price of the Indian V.C.R. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Limited (ET&T) in consultation with Department of Electronics sent a team to visit Japan and Europe.