

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

[English]

**Validity Period of Indian Passport**

4862. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the period of validity of a new passport;

(b) what is the reason for the time limit; and

(c) whether Government purpose to make Indian Passport valid for a much longer time like that of the American, British and other countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Five years.

(b) A passport is a travel document which is subject to wear and tear and can contain only limited pages for visa etc. As such a time limit is necessary for its validity. The appearance of the person also undergoes changes with passage of time. On such practical considerations we have prescribed a validity period of five years, with provision for a renewal of another five years.

(c) No, Sir. Most countries in the world have validity of passports varying between five to ten years.

**Tribal Areas inclusion in Hill Areas Development Programme**

4863. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission and the Union Government have received any request for the inclusion of such tribal areas as are also hilly, in the Hill Areas Development Programme initiated during the Sixth Plan;

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the likely date by which a decision will be taken and the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) The Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan have proposed inclusion in Hill Areas Development Programme (HADP) some of their areas which are partly tribal areas. However, their requests were not on the ground that the areas proposed are tribal areas but on the ground that they are hilly.

(b) and (c). The question of extension of the coverage of the HADP to areas outside its present operation is under examination of the Union Government in the light of recommendations of the Working Group on Hill Areas. However, the exercise is not related to areas having tribal population.

**Cheap T.V. Sets and Computers for Common User**

4864. SHRI SALEEM I. SHERVANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps Government are taking to permit the availability of cheaper computer for the common user; and

(b) whether there is any plan to produce portable TV sets and small computers operatable on dry batteries ?

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) The Government has announced a New Computer Policy which has laid emphasis on the manufacture of computers in the country based on latest technology at prices comparable with international level. To bring about economy of scale in production the Government has practically removed capacity restriction, allowed liberal import of technology and have reduced custom duty on the import of vital components like LSIs, High Resolution CRT Tubes and

Multilayer PCB Boards to a level of 25%. Further, Excise Duty has also been waived on computers. All these steps have been taken to bring about reduction in the prices of indigenously produced computers so as to make them within the reach of common user. This in turn would increase demand.

(b) Government have no specific plans at present to manufacture portable TV sets operatable on Dry Cell batteries. In the past about 300 units have been approved in the area of Minicomputer/Microprocessor Based Systems and some of these units have indicated their intention to take up the manufacture of Hand held type of computers which would work on dry batteries.

[*Translation*]

**Pollution in Ganga by Northern-Southern Sides**

4865. SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the names of the rivers flowing into the river Ganga from its Northern and Southern sides and the extent to which these are responsible for pollution of the river Ganga ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : Considering the volume of water carried and discharging directly into the river Ganga, the major rivers (mean annual flow greater than 100 cubic meter per second) are as follows :—

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| From the left bank  | (i) Ramganga.    |
| side of the river   | (ii) Gomti       |
|                     | (iii) Ghagra     |
|                     | (iv) Gandak      |
|                     | (v) Burhi Gandak |
|                     | (vi) Kosi        |
| From the right bank | (i) Yamuna       |
| side of the river   | (ii) Tons        |
|                     | (iii) Sone       |
|                     | (iv) Punpun      |
|                     | (v) Ajay.        |
|                     | (vi) Roopnarayan |
|                     | (vii) Damodar    |
|                     | (viii) Haldi     |

Some assessment has been made regarding the pollution load on the river Yamuna in certain stretches upstream but no quantitative assessment of the pollution load contributed by all these rivers to the river Ganga has been made.

[*English*]

**Super Computer Centre at Bhubaneswar**

4866. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sanctioned and are implementing a project to locate/set up a Super Computer Centre at Bhubaneswar:

(b) what headway the project has made so far; and

(c) extent of funds spent/allocated by the Centre on the above and also for training and data preparation project programmes separately ?

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) Yes, Sir. A large mainframe Computer is being installed in Bhubaneswar as the eastern regional facility of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) of the Department of Electronics.

(b) NIC had purchased a building in Bhubaneswar from the Govt. of Orissa. The Computer is expected to be commissioned by June, 1986. Two training courses were conducted for the officers of the Orissa Government. Software developed at the headquarters of the National Informatics Centre at Delhi are in the process of being converted for the State Governments of the eastern region for implementation on the Bhubaneswar computer.

(c) A sum of Rs. 709.45 lakhs has so far been spent on the Bhubaneswar installation. A provision of Rs. 236 lakhs has been made in the budget of NIC during 1986-87 for installation and operation of the computer, software development, setting up a training wing for the eastern region and essential data entry facilities,