

(b) the steps, if any, required to be taken by Government of Gujarat to expedite the approval to this Bill; and

(c) the reasons for not clearing the Bill ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) No Bill of the nomenclature mentioned in the question was received.

The Bombay Primary Education (Gujarat Amendment) Ordinance, 1983 was received on 6.1.1984.

(b) and (c) The previous instructions of the President for the promulgation of the Ordinance have already been conveyed to the State Govt. on 25.2.86.

Passport Office

1424. **SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) how many passport offices are working in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open new passport offices; and

(c) if so, the places where Government propose to open new passport offices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) There are 21 Passport Offices and 2 Liaison Offices under the control of the Ministry of External Affairs, and two Passport Offices manned by the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu at Panaji, and Union Territory of Andaman, Nicobar and Minicoy Islands at Port Blair respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Defection by Embassy Personnel in Norway

1425. **SHRI M.R. SAIKIA :**
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the Embassy personnel in Norway has defected taking away with him a huge amount of money from the embassy fund;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government for its recovery; and

(c) whether Government have taken any immediate precautionary measures to prevent such occurrences in our other embassies in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Shri Harinder Singh, formerly First Secretary in our Mission in Oslo deserted on 19th June, 1984 and took away with him some money from the Embassy account.

(b) The question of recovery of the funds embezzled was taken up with the Norwegian Foreign Office. As a result of discussions it was not considered advisable to pursue this matter because it would have involved the Mission inter alia in long court proceedings.

(c) Government have taken all possible precautionary measures to prevent such occurrences in our Embassies in the future.

Proposal for Lumpsum Payment in Lieu of Pension

1426. **SHRI C. SAMBU :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to pay 90 months basic pay in place of monthly pension to Central Government pensioners including defence pensioners; and

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been referred to the Fourth Pay Commission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.