

(a) the number of pending passport applications as on 31st March, 1978 with regional passport office-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to clear the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU):
(a) A statement showing the number of passport applications pending as on 31st March, 1978, Regional Passport Office-wise, is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Government have sanctioned a total of 375 additional posts of clerks for the Regional Passport Offices with effect from February, 1978 for clearing the arrears. In addition, 23 posts of Passport Officers (Assistant Passport Officers, Public Relations Officers and Superintendents) have been created

during the period May 1977 to April, 1978 to cope with the arrears as well as the increasing work load of the Regional Passport Offices.

Passports in respect of a large number of these pending applications could not be issued because the applications were not complete and information or documents or photographs were lacking. The Regional Passport Offices have written to the Applicants again asking them to supply the requisite documents/information for want of which the applications are pending; the applicants have been informed that they should supply the documents within three weeks.

As a result of these measures, the effective arrears in the Regional Passport Offices have been progressively reduced and brought down to 1,75,892 as on June 30, 1978.

Statement

Sl. No.	Office	Number of applications pending as on 31st March, 1978	Number of applications pending as on 30th June, 1978
1	Ahmedabad	8,004	2,620
2	Bombay	18,953	18,459
3	Calcutta	9,449	11,234
4	Chandigarh	48,625	21,584
5	Delhi	62,543	27,204
6	Ernakulam	1,35,860	1,10,939
7	Hyderabad	12,264	4,947
8	Lucknow	30,534	25,146
9	Madras	52,482	20,299
	TOTAL	3,78,714	2,42,432

*Applications pending as on 30-6-78 2,42,432

Less Fresh applications received in June 1978 which are under processing 66,540

NET EFFECTIVE ARREARS 1,75,892

Retirement Age of Scientists in ICMR

604. SHRI GANGADHAR APPA BURANDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the retirement age of medical scientists in the ICMR is 60 and is liable to be extended upto the age of 62 unlike in the Government of India; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) According to the Bye-laws governing the conditions of service of the employees of the Indian Council of Medical Research, the age of retirement of scientific/technical personnel is 60 years. They may, however, be retained in service upto the age of 62 years in exceptional cases.

(b) The Indian Council of Medical Research is an autonomous organisation. The Bye-laws governing the age of retirement of the employees of the Council are on the same lines as those of the other similar autonomous organisations like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and Post-graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research Chandigarh etc, and were adopted so that the expertise and knowledge of the concerned scientific and technical personnel is fully utilised to the maximum advantage of the country.

Issue of Share of State owned Public Ltd. Companies to workers

605. **SHRI SUDHIR GHOSAL:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue shares of the State owned Public Ltd. Companies like IISCO, Burnpur, HSL, Bokaro, Durgapur, Rourkela and Bhilai and Nationalised Mines & Minerals Bodies to Public and to the workers so as to ensure sense of peoples' participation in the minds of workers and people of this country; and

(b) whether similar arrangement will be extended to other private sector plants like Tata Iron & Steel Company and TELCO and numerous mines so that the true Janata type of institutions can grow?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

राजकोट जिला के जाम कंडोरणा गांव में एक नया टेलीफोन केन्द्र खोला जाना

606. **श्री धर्म सिंह भाई पटेल:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गुजरात में सौराष्ट्र प्रदेश के राजकोट जिले में जाम कंडोरणा गांव में टेलीफोन केन्द्र को सुधारने और एक नया टेलीफोन केन्द्र खोलने का कोई कार्यक्रम है, और यदि हां, तो उसका व्यौरा क्या है और यह काम कब तक पूरा हो जायेगा;

(ख) जाम कंडोरणा टेलीफोन केन्द्र की वर्तमान क्षमता क्या है और इस समय टेलीफोन केन्द्र से ग्रामवाग कितने टेलीफोन कनेक्शन दिये गये हैं और 1 अप्रैल, 1978 को टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों के लिए ग्राम-वार कितनी मांग थी तथा आवेदनकर्ताओं को टेलीफोन कनेक्शन कब तक दिये जायेंगे; और

(ग) इस समय जाम कंडोरणा और धोरार्ज के बीच कितनी टेलीफोन लाइनें हैं तथा क्या सरकिट लाइन बिछाने के लिए कोई मांग आई है और यदि हां, तो कहां से, किससे और यह मांगें कब आई थी तथा उन पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है अथवा करने का विचार है तथा कब और कैसे ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री नरहरि प्रसाद मुखर्जी साय) (क) जी नहीं। 50 लाइनों वाला एक छोटा स्वचल एक्सचेंज संतोषजनक काम कर रहा है। प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।