

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the office will be set up; and

(d) the criterion for opening a regional or sub-regional office in a State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government have received communications from Members of Parliament, public associations from Himachal Pradesh and others requesting the opening of a passport office in the State in order to provide greater convenience to the passport applicants. These requests are under consideration of Government.

(c) and (d). The criteria for opening a Regional Passport Office are:—

(i) the number of passport applications expected to be received by it from the area under its jurisdiction.

(ii) the inconvenience to the public in States which do not have an office there already, or at a nearby location;

(iii) considerations of economy in expenditure, particularly non-plan expenditure.

These criteria also apply generally in the case of sub-regional passport offices, with the difference that the number of passport applications received from areas to be covered by the sub offices is expected to be smaller. In the case of Himachal Pradesh a total of 3407 passport applications had been received in 1977 and the inflow for the period from 1st January 1978 to 31st July 1978 was 1855.

The question of opening a passport office in Himachal Pradesh will be kept under review and a decision to open an office there taken as soon as the criteria mentioned above so justify.

Cola

5146. SHRI MANOHAR LAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Cola' is a vegetable;

(b) whether 'Cola' is a fruit; and

(c) whether 'Cola' is a special category by itself?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c). Cola has not been defined in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act/Rules. Cola nuts are seeds of the tree *cola acuminata* and *cola intida*. The seeds are contained within a seed pod up to ten being present at maturity. The tree is cultivated in Brazil and West Indies.

#### Belgrade Conference

5147. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries who were invited as guests at recent conference of non-aligned countries held at Belgrade in July, 1978:

(b) whether there was no unanimity about inviting a number of countries as guests; and

(c) if so, his reaction thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) The following countries attended the recently-concluded Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-aligned Countries held in Belgrade in July, 1978 as guests:

Austria, Finland, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Rumania, San Marino, Sweden and Switzerland.

The UN Council for Namibia also attended as guest.

(b) and (c). Of the countries which attended as guests, two countries, Pakistan and San Marino, attended in this capacity for the first time. They were invited to attend as guests as there was consensus in favour of permitting them to attend in this capacity. The U.N. Council for Namibia was also invited to attend as a guest since there was consensus in favour of this. In all these cases India supported the consensus.

**Connecting of Baroda with Poona, Rajkot etc.**

5148. SHRI F. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which Baroda will be connected with Poona, Rajkot, Indore, Nagpur, Calcutta, Bangalore etc. on the STD Net-work of the country; and

(b) the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Baroda is likely to be linked with Poona, Rajkot, Indore and Nagpur through the STD network during 1979. Baroda is expected to be connected with Calcutta, Bangalore etc. on the STD network of the country towards the end of current Roll-on-Plan.

(b) An integrated Trunk Automatic Exchange network is being built up with Trunk Automatic Exchanges at

Ahmedabad, Bombay, Indore, Calcutta, Bangalore etc. and the various stations mentioned above are being connected to one of these Trunk Automatic Exchanges for providing inter-dialling among themselves.

**Investment Plan for Steel during 6th Plan**

5149. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) details of the investment plan for the steel industry during the Sixth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether any new steel plant projects are proposed to be initiated during the Plan period; and

(c) if so, where and with what capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):

(a) The Draft Five Year Plan, 1978-83 envisages a total outlay of Rs. 2,546.53 crores for the development of steel industry, as per details given in the attached Statement.

(b) and (c). A provision of Rs. 200 crores has been made for New Steel Plants during this period. The feasibility of setting up three port-based steel plants at Visakhapatnam, Paradeep and Mangalore is under consideration at present. No final decision regarding investment or capacity of these plants has so far been taken.