

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) M/s. Frederic R. Harris was appointed by Netherlands Government as a consultant to make a locational advantage study for a container transshipment terminal, Cochin versus Tuticorin. In their draft report submitted to the Netherlands Embassy, the consultants have favoured Cochin as compared to Tuticorin primarily on the basis of lower development and maintenance costs and the potential for superior overland connections to the market.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The costs estimated by consultants are :

Cochin

Willingdon Island	: Rs. 1706 crores
Vallarpadam Island	: Rs. 2271 crores

Tuticorin

Inner Harbour	: Rs. 2491 crores
Outer Harbour	: Rs. 3814 crores

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Rashtriya Uchchpath ke Nirman Main Ghapla

2435. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rashtriya uchchpath ke nirman mein bhi das crore ka ghapla" appearing in Hindi daily 'Aaj' (Varanasi), dated October 27, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Bihar Government has also admitted the scam of nine crore; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to check such recurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d). The requisite information is being collected from the State Government of Bihar.

Promotion of Ayurvedic Doctors

2436. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doctors working in Ayurvedic Hospitals have generally less chances of promotions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the rules of promotions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Sir. Recruitment in Ayurvedic System in CGHS/CGHS Hospital at the level of Medical Officer (Ay.) in the pay scale of Rs. 2200-4000 is 100% by direct recruitment through UPSC. Medical Officer (Ay.) with 4 years regular service in the grade are eligible for promotion to the post of Senior Medical Officer (Ay.) in the pay scale of Rs. 3000-4500 on seniority cum-fitness basis. The promotion is vacancy based.

The eligibility for promotion to the post of Chief Medical Officer (Ay.) in the pay scale of Rs. 3700-5000 is, SMO (Ay.) with 5 years regular service in the grade failing which 9 years combined regular service in the grade of S.M.O. (Ay.) and M.O. (Ay.) out of which 2 years regular service in the grade of S.M.O. (Ay.) on seniority cum-fitness basis. The promotion is vacancy based.

As per Recruitment Rules the posts of Adviser (Ay./ Medical Superintendent Ayurvedic Hospital are required to be filled by promotion failing which by transfer on deputation. For promotion, CMO (Ay.) with 8 years regular service in the grade failing which Chief Medical Officer (Ay.) with 13 years combined regular service in the grade of C.M.O. (Ay./S.M.O. (Ay.) out of which 4 years regular service should be in the grade of Chief Medical Officer (Ay.) are eligible to be considered. Provided that the existing Deputy Adviser directly recruited under earlier recruitment rules shall also be considered for promotion on seniority-cum-merit basis. However in comparison, doctors of allopathic system get time bound promotion from the level Medical Officer to Senior Medical Officer after putting in 4 years regular service in the grade of Medical Officer and from Senior Medical Officer to Chief Medical Officer after 6 years regular service in the grade of Senior Medical Officer. These promotions are time bound and without linkage to the availability of vacancies. Promotion beyond the grade of CMO are vacancy based and are filled up by selection method.

[English]

Twenty Years Passport

2437. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have announced a new policy to issue passport for twenty years at a time, recently;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the response received from the public thereto;

(c) the names of countries which issue passport for twenty years at a time;

(d) whether he has expressed his views against the formalities of the police verification report to be obtained before the issue of passport, recently;

(e) whether character verification is to be done after twenty years at the time of renewal of the passport instead of after every ten years as per the previous policy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that the passport is issued after due character verification?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. On 9th September, 1996, the Government announced a new policy to issue passports for 20 years at a time which has received a favourable response from the public. However in view also of the continued interest and demand for obtaining 10 year validity passports, this policy was modified and an option was given to applicants to apply for either a 10 year validity passport on payment of the existing fee of Rs. 300 or a 20 year validity passport on payment of fee of Rs. 600. The salient features of the new policy after the modification are as follows :-

- (i) For fresh applicants not holding passports, the normal procedure would continue to be followed and a passport valid for 10 years or 20 years, as applied for, will be issued to them subject to clear police verification report or if no report is received for four weeks, on a presumption of clearance on a post-verification basis, without waiting for the report.
- (ii) For applicants already holding valid passports or whose passports are expiring within one year and who are seeking their re-issue, new passports valid for 10 years or 20 years, as the case may be, will be issued to them without prior police verification, but on post verification basis;
- (iii) At the expiry of the said period of 10 years or 20 years in (i) & (ii) above, the passport holder will be re-issued a passport for 10 years or 20 years also on post verification basis.
- (iv) In cases where passports have been submitted after one or more years of its expiry, a new passport valid for 10 or 20 years can be issued on post verification basis, condoning the gap.

(c) India is the only country now issuing passports valid for 20 years at a time.

(d) Yes, Sir. I have stated that prior police verification will no longer be a precondition for the issue/re-issue of a passport as outlined in para (i) and (ii) of parts (a&b) above.

(e) and (f). Necessary Verification is carried out at each point when a passport is issued/re-issued and

this provides ample safeguard. Under the new policy, while the verification in respect of all those who are already holding a valid passport is done after a passport is re-issued to them, in the case of those applying for the first time, a passport is issued only after their personal particulars have been sent to the concerned police authorities for necessary verification. Moreover, as an additional safeguard where passports are issued on post verification basis, care has been taken to ensure that in all those cases where adverse/negative reports are received from police authorities after issue/re-issue of passports, necessary action to impound/revoke the passports could be taken under the Provisions of the Indian Passports Act, 1967.

Pak's Missile Plant

2438. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Indian Express, New Delhi, dated August 26, 1996 under the caption "Pakistan secretly building missile plant";

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the number of M-11 missiles and the details of the other war material received from China and other countries by Pakistan during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken, so far, by the Government to safeguard India's security and interests?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Government have seen the press report in this regard. Government have been aware of Pakistan's attempts to build a missile plant with Chinese assistance and consider it a matter of great concern. Our concern regarding Pakistan's acquisition of M-11 Missiles and other armaments have also been conveyed to the concerned countries. There have been media reports that the number of M-11 missiles acquired by Pakistan range between 75 to 100. The statement regarding certain categories of conventional weapons acquired by Pakistan during 1992-95, as indicated in the UN Arms Register is enclosed.

(d) The acquisition of weapons by Pakistan and its impact on the security environment is kept under constant review. The Government remain committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard its security.

STATEMENT

Arms Imported by Pakistan and Declared in the UN Register of Conventional Arms

1. Calendar Year 1992

- (a) 97 Battle Tanks from China.