

receipt of the application. In the case of applications submitted through the District authorities who have to verify the particulars given in the application, it takes between 4 to 6 weeks for the grant of a passport.

(b) and (c). A total of 865 applications are pending in the office of the Regional Passport Officer, Delhi for more than three months for the following reasons :

- (i) 522 on account of non-receipt of required documents from applicants.
- (ii) 220 on account of non-receipt of verification reports from the District authorities, and
- (iii) 123 on account of non-receipt of confirmation of special certificates from certifying officers.

#### JOURNALISTS' VISIT TO PANTNAGAR

4067. SHRI R. K. SINHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a party of Journalists was taken by the Press Information Bureau to Pantnagar and other places in the third week of July, 1968;

(b) if so, the number of journalists and officials in the party and the total expenditure incurred on them;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the journalists returned in the middle of the tour on account of the misbehaviour of the officials; and

(d) if so, whether any enquiry has been ordered into the incident ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Press tour was sponsored and financed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, with which the PIB was associated.

(b) Fifteen journalists and six officials. Total expenditure Rs. 2,740-45.

(c) No, Sir. But some journalists did not find it convenient to go round the Pantnagar Agricultural University on the evening of July 18 as was originally scheduled. The majority of journalists, however, insisted that the schedule should not be changed,

and they finished their work at Pantnagar on the same day. As the Press Party was scheduled to leave for the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Mukteswar, at 8 a.m. the next day, July 19, the first group preferred to stay back on July 19 and cover Pantnagar and they were given all facilities. The rest proceeded to Mukteswar according to the scheduled programme.

(d) Does not arise.

#### SINKIANG-GILGIT ROAD

4068. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 604 on the 24th July, 1968 and state :

(a) what is the reply of the Government of Pakistan and China to the protests note sent to them regarding the construction of Sinkiang-Gilgit Road; and

(b) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) and (b). No reply from China has so far been received. A reply from Pakistan was received on August 2, 1968 and is under the Government's consideration.

#### वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री का नागालैंड का दौरा

4069. श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त :

श्री सीताराम केसरी :

क्या वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि नागालैंड की परिस्थितियों का अध्ययन करने के लिए वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री 22 मई, 1968 को वहां गये थे;

(ख) क्या इस सम्बन्ध में उन्होंने सरकार को कोई रिपोर्ट पेश की है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने उस पर कोई कार्यवाही की है ?