

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 ?

प्रधान मंत्री, अणु-शक्ति मंत्री, योजना मंत्री तथा वैदेशिक कार्य मंत्री (श्रीमती इंदिरा गंधी) : (क) जो हैं। उप विदेश मंत्री की नागालैंड यात्रा संपर्क बनाए रखने और वहाँ पर वर्तमान दशाओं की जानकारी रखने की सामान्य प्रक्रिया का अंग थी।

(ख) जो हैं।

(ग) नागालैंड के संबंध में जब भी कोई निर्णय लिया जाता है तो इस प्रकार की यात्राओं के दौरान प्राप्त किए हुए वैयक्तिक ज्ञान एवं मूल्यांकन को स्वभावतः ही ध्यान में रखा जाता है।

**REPATRIATION OF INDIAN NATIONALS
DETAINED IN BURMA**

4070. SHRI S. C. SHAMANTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in the matter of repatriation of Indian nationals at present detained by the Burmese Government for the so-called economic offences;

(b) the names of the persons against whom prosecution has been launched by the Burmese Government recently and the charges framed against them;

(c) the diplomatic efforts made by the Government of India to approach the Government of Burma to secure their release and repatriation; and

(d) the other facilities which are being provided by our Embassy in Burma to these persons to defend themselves ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) 12 economic detenus were recently released. This leaves 13 of whom 3 are on bail.

(b) The 4 detenus who are now on trial are S/Shri Govinda Rao, P.C. Kapoor, Sitaram Kabra and Kishan Chand. While the specific charges against each still remain to be known it is understood they refer to "obstruction to the construction of Socialist economy", contravention of foreign exchange regulations, contravention of the Sea Customs Act by trying to take out of

the country more foreign exchange or jewelry than entitled to etc.

(c) The Government of India including our Embassy in Burma have repeatedly approached the Government of Burma in this matter, even at the highest level.

(d) Those facing trial at present have appointed lawyers of their own choice. While any assistance asked for will be provided by our Embassy, it is not considered necessary for our Embassy at this stage to volunteer assistance which is neither asked for nor required.

**SUPPORT BY CHINA TO NAGA GOVERNMENT
IN EXILE**

4071. SHRI SITARAM KESRI :

SHRI N. R. LASKER :

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of China have offered to support Naga Government in exile;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether such action by China would be considered a hostile step and necessary steps will be taken to meet the challenge ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) to (c). Government of India are aware of the open support of the People's Republic of China to the Underground Nagas and the contacts which the Underground have established with the Chinese and are taking increasingly effective measures to counteract hostile activities. Nagaland is one of the constituent States of the Indian Union. Government of India are determined not to allow foreign interference in India's domestic affairs.

**यूगोस्लाविया द्वारा पाकिस्तान को
दिया गया ऋण**

4072. श्री सीताराम केसरी : क्या वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने इस सम्बन्ध में जानकारी एकत्रित की है कि यूगोस्लाविया