

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) to (c). During the period from the 1st January 1968 to the 31st May, 1969, 3, 5,360 persons applied for passports. The above applications covered requests for travel to almost all countries of the world. During the above period, 3,48,937 passports were issued.

1,327 persons were refused passport facilities. Reasons for refusal included, inter alia, suppressions and misrepresentation of facts, lack of proof of Indian nationality and activities prejudicial to integrity, sovereignty and security of India.

Information for the period from the 1st June 1969 to the 31st July 1970 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Export of Diesel Locomotives

2556. SHRI J. M. BISWAS : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India is exporting Diesel Locomotives to other countries ; and

(b) if so, the names of the countries where Diesel locomotives are exported ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (b). India has not exported any Diesel Locomotives so far, but offers have been made for the supply of the Diesel Locomotives to some developing countries.

#### Opinion of Scientists on the Findings of Public Accounts Committee on C.S.I.R. Laboratories

2557. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Scientists has expressed doubts about the findings of the Public Accounts Committee on C.S.I.R. laboratories and their research ; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that these Scientists questioned the authenticity of the sources of the Public Committee's findings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, AND MINISTER OF STATE, DEPARTMENTS OF ELECTRONICS AND SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b). The question presumably refers to the recommendations/conclusions contained in the 122nd Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audit Reports of the C.S.I.R. The Public Accounts Committee heard C.S.I.R. witnesses including Directors of the National Laboratories concerned and invited written replies on several questions. It is presumed the Public Accounts Committee have taken note of those in preparing their report.

The recommendations/conclusions of the Committee are being examined in consultation with the Laboratories.

#### Floods Control in Assam

2558. SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the loss due to the floods of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries in Assam during the month of July this year has been assessed ; and

(b) if so, whether any help has been given to the State Government for the purpose ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) No separate assessment regarding the damages caused by floods in July has been made. However, according to the preliminary assessments made by the State Government, the damage due to floods in Assam during the current flood season is so far of the order of Rs. 10 crores.

(b) Central assistance to State Governments for relief purposes is released in accordance with certain fixed criteria after an on the spot assessment of the damages by a team of officers deputed by the Government of India to the affected States. Such a team is being deputed to visit Assam for the purpose. Meanwhile Government has been requested details of the relief measures proposed by them.