

Opening of new Passport Offices is based on a number of factors such as the number of passport applications received from an area, accessibility of a location, availability of manpower, constraints necessitating financial approvals for creation of posts.

Based on these criteria, there is a constant review of opening new Passport Offices.

#### STATEMENT

Year	Number of applications received for fresh passports		
	Karnataka		Kerala
1993	111035	Cochin	137771
		Kozhikode	206917
		Trivandrum	124600
		Total	469288
1994	82083	Cochin	94933
		Kozhikode	162795
		Trivandrum	95691
		Total	353419
1995	97741	Cochin	105955
		Kozhikode	133067
		Trivandrum	90432
		Total	329454

#### Admission in Schools

4722. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enact a law to the effect that children below four years would not be provided admission in schools; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) There is no proposal to enact a law to the effect that children below four years would not be provided admission in schools, under consideration of the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Under Utilisation of Funds

4723. SHRI RAMSAGAR:  
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:  
SHRI I.D. SWAMI:  
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:  
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Mid-day-meal, literacy schemes' funds underutilised" which appeared in 'The Times of India' dated August 13, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the funds allocated and utilised under the said schemes during 1995-96, State-wise; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Mid-day Meal Scheme, the funds released to the Food Corporation of India which supplies foodgrains to the States, were Rs. 441.38 crores in 1995-96, against an initial budget provision of Rs. 611.79 crores.

As regards literacy schemes, the total expenditure in 1995-96 was Rs. 142.64 crore against a budget provision of Rs. 234.00 crore.

(c) Under the Mid-day Meal Scheme, the States are allocated foodgrains to be supplied by the Food Corporation of India. The Statewise allocation and lifting of foodgrains in 1995-96 is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

Under the Literacy schemes, the funds are allocated scheme-wise. The scheme-wise allocation and utilisation of the funds in 1995-96 is provided in the attached Statement-II.

(d) The schemes are being regularly monitored and reviewed at District, State and Central levels, so that remedial measures are initiated.

## STATEMENT-I

STATE/U.T.	FOODGRAINS ALLOCATION			LIFTING OF FOODGRAINS*		
	Wheat	Rice	Total	Wheat	Rice	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Andhra Pradesh	—	63664	63664	—	52347	52347
Arunachal Pradesh	—	2127	2127	—	1098	1098
Assam	—	44116	44116	—	29648	29648
Bihar	28636	32578	61214	21660	6533	28193
Goa	—	66	66	—	66	66
Gujarat	16862	14671	31533	13866	8135	22001
Haryana	5171	5171	10342	5369	4965	10334
Himachal Pradesh	—	3549	3549	—	3151	3151
Jammu & Kashmir	—	7521	7521	—	3232	3232
Karnataka	36780	28808	65588	25487	24998	50485
Kerala	—	5128	5128	—	5127	5127
Madhya Pradesh	42684	38555	81239	39993	39003	78996
Maharashtra	—	84479	84479	—	50903	50903
Manipur	—	2362	2362	—	1367	1367
Meghalaya	—	4918	4918	—	4396	4396
Mizoram	—	2031	2031	—	1917	1917
Nagaland	—	2190	2190	—	1460	1460
Orissa	—	25993	25993	—	25767	25767
Punjab	11151	—	11151	5502	—	5502
Rajasthan	62097	—	62097	54965	—	54965
Sikkim	—	1398	1398	—	1651	1651
Tamil Nadu	—	18929	18929	—	18737	1877
Tripura	—	8086	8086	—	8085	8085
Uttar Pradesh	23715	33465	57180	22697	25693	48390
West Bengal	1133	38863	39996	758	24435	25193
A & N Islands	—	122	122	—	106	106
Chandigarh	49	972	1021	49	20	69
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	400	400	—	399	399
Daman & Diu	—	169	169	—	142	142
Delhi	13500	—	13500	1800	—	1800
Lakshdweep	—	124	124	—	—	—
Pondicherry	—	673	673	—	139	139
Total	241778	471128	712906	192146	343520	535666

\*Provisional figures.

**STATEMENT-II**

(Rs. in crores)			
S No.	Scheme	Budget Estimates (Plan)	Expenditure
1	Special Projects for Eradication of Illiteracy	120.00	98.91
2.*	Mass Programme of Functional Literacy (MPFL)	0.00	0.19
3	Scheme of assistance to voluntary agencies	10.00	6.32
4.	Post Literacy and Continuing Education	66.00	9.34
5.	Strengthening of Administrative Structures	14.00	10.96
6	Rural Functional Literacy Project	6.00	0.28
7.	Directorate of Adult Education	12.00	11.86
8	Shramik Vidyapeeth	4.35	4.15
9.	Technology Demonstration	0.15	—
10.	Cultural Exchange Programme	0.25	0.01
11.	National Institute of Adult Education	0.50	0.20
12.	National Literacy Mission Authority	0.75	0.42
Total:		234.00	142.64

\* RE 1995-96 for MPFL was kept at Rs. 20 lakhs.

**Port Land**

4724. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give port trusts complete autonomy to utilise the land within their premises;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for change in the present policy?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**US-Pak Joint Military Training**

4725. SHRI DARBARA SINGH:  
SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a joint practice/training of armed forces of Pakistan and the US is undergoing in the U.S.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this training and experience of armed forces of Pakistan is likely to be used against India;

(d) if so, whether the Government have taken-up the matter with the U.S.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the response of the US thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) While the US and Pakistani armed forces have periodic joint exercises, Government is not aware of any joint practice/training currently in progress in the US.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Ratio of Males & Females**

4726. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sex ratio, which was 970 females, per 1000 males in 1901 has declined to 927 females per 1000 males in 1991;

(b) if so, the latest estimated sex ratio in India;

(c) whether any study has been made to determine the main reasons responsible for the declining sex ratio; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to improve the sex ratio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Sex-ratio which was 972 in 1901 has declined to 927 in 1991, which is the latest available information.

(c) Studies conducted in 9 States inter-alia reveal the main reasons as strong son preference, low level of female education, socio-economic factors and low age at marriage resulting in increased risk in pregnancy and child birth.

(d) Detection and selective abortion of female foetuses has been made illegal in the country from 1st January, 1996 under the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994. Various Programme of action and advocacy are being implemented by the Government in the country for the development of women and girl child. Attempts are also being made to project positive images of girl child so as