

[Translation]

Passport Office, Bhopal

1407. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of applications pending in the Bhopal passport office for seeking Passport and the time since when these applications are pending;

(b) the average number of fresh applications received and disposed of during a month by the said passport office; and

(c) the action taken to deal with the problem of brokers found loitering in the premises of the passport office in view of the complaints received from time to time?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) On 7.2.97, 2691 applications were pending in Passport Office, Bhopal. Of these, 1652 were pending for over one month.

(b) The average number of fresh applications received during a month in the year 1996 was 1642. The number of fresh applications disposed of on an average during the same period was 1581.

(c) All passport offices are under strict instructions to take strong measures against touts. whenever complaints are received about the activities of touts, immediate action is initiated in coordination with the local police authorities.

[English]

Financial Assistance to Hospital Projects

1408. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loans/financial assistance given to hospital projects in Assam during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the terms/conditions subject to which these allocations have been made;

(c) whether the Union Government have received further request from Assam Government for getting financial assistance for the expansion and development of medical colleges and hospitals in the State:

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have not released loans/financial assistance to hospital Projects in Assam during the last three years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Three Proposals for financial assistance have been received from Government of Assam for Central Assistance for development of State level hospitals. On the

proposals relating to upgradation of Guwahati Medical College, the Planning Commission have agreed in principle to release Rs. 9.50 crores., to the State. The other proposal for strengthening of secondary level hospital in Assam, with a project cost of Rs. 11394.72 lakhs from IDA World Bank funding is being processed in this Ministry. The third Proposal to augment the existing health care facilities with project cost between Rs. 130-170 crores for financial assistance from European Community is also under examination.

[Translation]

Open Universities

1409. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open some more Open Universities in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the places where these are proposed to be set-up;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up an Open University in Balsad district of Gujarat;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set-up; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (e) Central Government has, at the national level, already set up, the Indira Gandhi National Open University and has urged the State governments to consider setting up one open university each in accordance with a recommendation in this behalf by the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE). As the state of Gujarat has already established a State level open university in 1994 there does not appear to be any necessity for setting up an additional open university in that State.

[English]

Overhaul of MIG-29 Aircraft

1410. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IAF lacks full-fledged maintenance facilities for the major overhaul of its MIG-29 Aircrafts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N SOMU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Full fledged maintenance facilities for major overhaul of MIG-29 aircraft have been set up indigenously in India. Aircraft have already been inducted for overhaul as per arisings.