

4. Persons holding normal passports may be issued with fresh passports after 10 years of its validity without prior Police CID verification.

5. Furthermore, in order to ensure expeditious clearance monitoring of Passports issued and pending is done through weekly progress reports in respect of each Passport Office.

6. With effect from 16th August, 1990, fresh passports are being issued for a period of ten years at a stretch so that a passport holder need not visit a Passport Office for renewal after first five years as was the case before August, 1990.

### STATEMENT III

(d) Yes, sir, there is a shortage of regular staff at Cochin Passport Office.

(e) Since there is a ban on creation of posts, additional posts, commensurate with work-load could not be got sanctioned. It will be difficult to get additional regular staff while the current financial constraints continue. In the meantime, to mitigate the shortage of staff, Passport Office, Cochin has been allowed to engage casual workers and give incentives like overtime allowance to the staff to clear the backlog.

### Communication Facilities in Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli Districts on U.P.

2200. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to expand the Post and telecommunication facilities in Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli districts of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps contemplated by the Government to provide telegram/telephone facilities in these areas?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNI-**

CATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) There are 13 numbers of telephone exchanges in Pauri Garhwal and 16 numbers in Chamoli districts out of which 4 numbers of Telephone exchanges have been replaced by electronic type in Pauri Garhwal and 5 in Chamoli district in 1990-91. 6 numbers of exchanges have been planned to be replaced by electronic type in Pauri Garhwal and 9 in Chamoli district in 1991-92. The remaining exchanges are expected to be replaced during the rest of Eighth Plan period. There are 1214 & 632 Gram Panchayats in Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli districts respectively. There are 43 & 44 numbers of Long Distance Public Telephones (LDPTs) with Telegram facilities respectively in the above two districts. 163 & 80 numbers of LDPTs are planned to be opened during 1991-92 in Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli districts respectively. There is one telegraph office each in both districts.

### Group Farming Schemes

2201. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of crops grown in Kerala under the Group Farming Scheme;

(b) whether the Government propose to implement Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development of rice and vegetable cultivation in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Under the Group Farming Scheme in Kerala, rice, coconut, pepper and vegetables are covered.

(b) and (c) For the development of rice, Centrally Sponsored Scheme, "Integrated Programme for Rice Development (IPRD)" and for vegetables, "Central Sector Scheme on Production