

29. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Shimla.
30. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Patna.
31. National Power Training Institute, Faridabad.
32. Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi.
33. Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla.
34. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi.
35. Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi
36. Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi.
37. Film and Television Institute of India, Pune.
38. Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Calcutta.

Passport Application

1145. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of passport applications received and the number of passports issued by Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad, during the last one year, and

(b) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the issue of passports by this office.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) During 1998, a total number of 1,96,772 passport applications were received and 1,95,441 passports were issued by the Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad.

(b) The measures taken to expedite processing of passport applications include: computerisation of processing procedures, enhancing validity of passports to 20 years, provision for dispatch of passport by speed post, additional staff to clear the backlog of pending cases, etc.

Backward Areas of Kerala

1146. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Kerala Government for the development of backward areas of Kerala during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated to Kerala during the above period; and

(d) the time by which the decision on the above project is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. Planning & Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in the development of backward regions through appropriate weightage for backwardness in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance amongst the States. Further, Special Central Assistance is allocated to various states, including Kerala, for Special Area Programmes such as Western Ghats Development Programme, Tribal Sub-Plan etc.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Water Management Programme

1147. SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI CHIDABAKA.

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to initiate various schemes with more peoples participation for the better utilisation of water resources for irrigation purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have decided to provide technical assistance to the farmers once the requirements were identified;

(d) if so, whether low cost water management technique was yielding good results; and