

holding 22,511 MT of Copra purchased under the price support scheme.

[English]

Difficulties Faced by people of J & K in getting Passports

3592. SHRI DHARM PAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that on account of shifting of passport office from Srinagar to Delhi the people of Jammu & Kashmir are facing a lot of difficulties in getting passports;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to open the passport office in Jammu;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) After the Srinagar Passport Office was burnt down, it was decided to provide passport services to the people of Jammu & Kashmir from Passport Office, Delhi. The Government is aware of the difficulties caused by the burning down of the Passport Office.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government propose to open this office as early as possible.

(d) Not applicable.

Visit of Australian Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister

3593. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT:
SHRI R.N. RAKESH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister of Australia visited India during the month of July, 1990;

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks held with him;

(c) whether any agreement was also signed during his visit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) The Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Senator Gareth Evans, visited India on 1-2 August, 1990.

(b) During the talks, bilateral political and economic relations were reviewed. It was decided to step up bilateral trade and increase the pace of economic exchanges and scientific and technological cooperation in various fields; including agriculture.

Australia acknowledged Government of India's expression of regret and disappointment on their decision to sell 50 Mirage Jets to Pakistan and appreciated our concern. Australia assured us that it will review the sale if hostilities break out or appear imminent. Australia has also stated that the deliveries are unlikely to take place before next year.

Regional issues, including developments in Fiji were discussed. Both sides expressed concern at the promulgation of a racist and undemocratic Constitution in Fiji. Senator Evans invited External Affairs Minister to visit Australia. The invitation has been accepted.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.