

**Bomb Blasts in Delhi**

8167. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKEH PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the increase in number of bomb blasts in Delhi Government propose to increase the number of Bomb disposal squads in Delhi;

(b) whether Government propose to train more people to meet the reported shortage of Explosives Experts; and

(c) the details of preventive measures taken by Government to make the public alert in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The number of persons to be trained in handling and defusing the device is as per the number of seats for Delhi Police allocated by the National Security Guards

(c) The public is educated through the T.V., Newspapers and Radio to exercise caution and to be on the look out for suspicious objects and to inform the Police, if necessary.

**Helicopters for Delhi Fire Service**

8168. SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY  
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Delhi Fire Service has repeatedly requested for providing helicopter services to evacuate people trapped in

the multi storeyed buildings;

(b) whether the naval helicopters had played a vital role in evacuating hundred of guests and other personnel from the Oberoi Hotel in Bombay which caught fire recently;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to provide helicopters to Fire Service in the Capital where high rise buildings exist; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Delay in Issue of Passports**

8169. SHRI SRIKANTADATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications pending in different Regional Passport Offices at present for more than one month;

(b) the reasons for delay in the issuance of passports to the people, and

(c) the steps taken for early disposal of these passport applications?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K GUJRAL): (a) Statement showing the passport applications pending in various Regional Passport Offices at present for more than one month is given below.

(b) the main reasons for delay in the issue of passports are:

(i) delay in receipt of verification reports.

(ii) increase in number of applica-

tions beyond normal handling capacity of Passport staff; and

lets to some Passport Offices.

(iii) short supply of Passport book-

(c) the steps taken for the early disposal of passport applications are enumerated in Statement II given below.

## STATEMENT

*The Number of Fresh Passport Applications pending in each Passport Office for Over One Month (As on 26th April, 1990)*

Sl. No.	Name of Passport Office	Pending due to Non-Receipt of Police Reports	Pending Due to Non-Compliance from Applicants and replies from other Authorities	Pending Due to Other reasons viz., Shortage of Officers and Short Supply of Passport Booklets	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ahmedabad	4,528	Nil	1,453	5,981
2.	Bangalore	1,664	Nil	Nil	1,664
3	Bareilly	8,490	Nil	Nil	8,490
4.	Bhopal	1,519	82	Nil	1,601
5	Bhubaneswar	148	Nil	Nil	148
6.	Bombay	8,598	Nil	Nil	8,598

Sl. No.	Name of Passport Office	Pending due to Non-Receipt of Police Reports	Pending Due to Non-Compliance from Applicants and replies from other Authorities	Pending Due to Other reasons viz., Shortage of Officers and Short Supply of Passport Booklets	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Calcutta	3,315	Nil	Nil	3,315
8.	Chandigarh	21,442	Nil	Nil	21,442
9.	Cochin	2,550	Nil	Nil	2,550
10.	Delhi	3,345	Nil	Nil	3,345
11.	Goa	150	03	Nil	153
12.	Guwahati	1,313	Nil	Nil	1,313
13.	Hyderabad	3,223	Nil	Nil	3,223
14.	Jaipur	8,308	Nil	1,290	9,598

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Passport Office</i>	<i>Pending due to Non-Receipt of Police Reports</i>	<i>Pending Due to Non-Compliance from Applicants and replies from other Authorities</i>	<i>Pending Due to Other reasons viz., Shortage of Officers and Short Supply of Passport Booklets</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
15.	Jalandhar	33,828	143	15,072	49,043
16.	Kozikhode	5,782	08	252	6,042
17.	Lucknow	7,185	Nil	Nil	7,185
18.	Madras	3,477	Nil	Nil	3,477
19.	Nagpur	342	25	Nil	367
20.	Patna	2,570	Nil	Nil	2,570
21.	Srinagar*	3,400	Nil	Nil	3,400

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Passport Office</i>	<i>Pending due to Non-Receipt of Police Reports</i>	<i>Pending Due to Non-Compliance from Applicants and replies from other Authorities</i>	<i>Pending Due to Other reasons viz., Shortage of Officers and Short Supply of Passport Booklets</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6
22	Trichy	6,387	Nil	5,000	11,387
		1,31,567	261	23,067	1,54,895

\* As on 29.12.89.

**STATEMENT-II**

The following steps have been taken for the early disposal of passport applications:

- (i) Passport applications are scrutinised at counters and incomplete applications are returned to applicants on the spot, pointing out the deficiencies. Incomplete applications received by post are returned the same day, pointing out the deficiencies.
- (ii) Despatch of personal particular forms of applicants to the Police/CID authorities within 24 hours of their receipt.
- (iii) Periodical reminder to the Police/CID authorities and constant liaison with those authorities at various levels.
- (iv) Simplification and rationalization of passport procedures.
- (v) Deployment of additional temporary staff and provision of special incentives to staff for working on Sundays and closed holidays.
- (vi) Despatch of passports to applicants within 5 working days of the receipt of Police & CID Reports/clearance from the concerned authorities.
- (vii) The question of provision of additional staff/redeployment of staff is engaging Government's urgent attention and additional officers/staff would be provided to the passport offices to cope up with the increase in the work load as soon as possible.

(viii) Urgent measures are being taken to increase the printing of the passport booklets capacity by the India Security Press, Nasik. As a stop gap arrangement, passport booklets have been diverted to the concerned Passport Offices to meet the immediate shortfall.

(ix) The progress of disposal of passport applications is regularly monitored weekly with the help of computers by the CPV Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.

**Development of Horticulture**

8170. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA  
NARASIMHARAJA  
WADIYAR:  
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are implementing schemes for the development of horticulture;

(b) if so, the amount spent on the horticulture developmental Schemes in Seventh plan,

(c) whether Government propose to introduce some comprehensive schemes for the development of horticulture during Eighth plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the States where this scheme is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA):

(a) Yes, Sir