

tion needs the financial help in this regard they are given by Government. The hon. Member referred to Lion's Club and some such organisation. If they come to us for help in this regard, we shall help them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall call one from left, right and another from the Centre, If I deviate from that, please correct me. The Leftists will never be left out. Don't worry. Shri Rajda.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA; Sir, we are eliciting information from the hon. Minister as far as steps that Government is taking with regard to blindness that is prevailing in this country and the extent to which it is prevailing etc. Blindness has many facets and intencities. Blindness is also caused by intensive power in this country. I do not know whether Government has got any means to overcome the blindness from power.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : They are politically blind!

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA : I won't say that they are politically blind. But power has got something to do with blindness.

That apart, the hon. Minister is aware that there are several associations for the blind. Now, they have been clamouring for Government help since the last many years. Their main complaint is that Government is turning a deaf ear to all their demands so far. Will the hon. Minister tell us what help or assistance is being given to all those associations for the blind ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : Those who were blind by power went away within three years. The hon. Member has been blind to the main question. The main question deals with blindness of children. He is asking about the help to the association for the blind people. This has nothing to do with the Health Ministry. This concerns the Social Welfare Ministry.

श्री शिव प्रसाद साहू : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ, उन्होंने जो बच्चों के संबंध में आंकड़े पेश किए हैं। इस संबंध में सरकारी काम जो भी हो रहे हैं, लेकिन हिमाचल प्रदेश, बिहार और उड़ीसा के पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में कुछ

भी काम नहीं हो रहा है, बल्कि अंधों की संख्या दिन प्रति दिन बढ़ती जा रही है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि पहाड़ों में बसने वाले आदिवासी और हरिजनों के लिए क्या कोई स्पेशल प्रोग्राम हमारी सरकार या हमारे मंत्री जी सोच रहे हैं या केवल शहरों की बात ही सोच रहे हैं ?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: Sir, I have already stated that there have been several constraints due to which this programme has not got into full swing. We have to go to the State authorities for implementation and we have been trying to tighten it up.

#### Reconsideration of New Passport Rules

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†142. SHRI JANARDHANA  
POOJARY :  
SHRI P. K. KODIYAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian nationals abroad have urged the Government to reconsider the new passport rules effective from 1st November, 1980; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on it ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). Embassy of India, Kuwait, had informed the Government that the Indian residents in Kuwait were under apprehension that the new system of emigration endorsements of Indian passports would cause inconvenience to them at the time of their visits to India. However, the Embassy has since clarified that Indian nationals coming to India from abroad on return tickets or transiting through India do not require emigration endorsements on their passports at the time of their departure back to their country of residence. Reports of adverse reaction from the Indian community to the new system have not been received from any other Indian Missions. Nor have there been any further representations in Kuwait after the clarification given by the Embassy.

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :** Whether the government would authorise the Indian Embassies abroad to grant exemption from emigration endorsements to minimise the inconvenience ?

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** The new rules that have come into force on 1st November seek to simplify the procedures and also reduce the inconvenience caused to passengers. All this checking had to be done at the airport and it is precisely for that purpose that new rules have come into force. In this there was some mis-understanding. That has been clarified and there is no further difficulty in this.

**आचार्य भगवान देव :** मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ—दिल्ली में इण्डियन एक्सप्रेस बिल्डिंग में सैकड़ों नहीं, हजारों की संख्या में विदेशी यात्री आये हुए हैं और वे काफी समय यहां रहेंगे। जिस उद्देश्य के लिए वह इण्डियन एक्सप्रेस को दी गई है, उस के बजाय ऐसा कहा जाता है कि ये लोग योग के नाम पर आये हुए हैं और इस बिल्डिंग में इकट्ठे हुए हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह कोई अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पड-यन्त्र तो नहीं है ?

**श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव :** मुझे इस की कोई सूचना नहीं है।

**आचार्य भगवान देव :** मैंने पूछा है कि क्या यह कोई अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पडयन्त्र तो नहीं है, क्योंकि वे हजारों की संख्या में आये हुए हैं ?

**श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव :** मुझे इस का कोई इल्म नहीं है।

**श्री रामबिलास पासवान :** क्या मंत्री महोदय को यह जानकारी है कि ब्रिटेन में जो भारत के बच्चे जाते हैं, उन के लिए एक नया अधिनियम बनाने जा रहे हैं कि अब उनका एक्स-रे लिया जायगा। एक्स-रे लेने के बाद उन को ब्रिटेन भेजा जायेगा। मैं जानना चाहता

हूँ कि क्या उन के स्वास्थ्य के लिए हानिकारक नहीं है।

**श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव :** यह प्रश्न हमारे इम्मीग्रेशन से सम्बन्ध रखता है, उन के इम्मिग्रेशन से नहीं। इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ अन्य सवाल आने वाले हैं, तब उन का जवाब दूंगा।

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not only the Indian nationals living in Kuwait who have reported this difficulty but also the Indian nationals living in other countries who visited even as tourists felt that in transit lot of harassment had been created regarding emigration. They had been asked to stay here for many days whereas they were not in a position to stay. Lot of difficulties have been experienced. Yesterday also they had given a memorandum to some Members of Parliament. Therefore, may I request the hon'ble Minister to kindly look into it and ease the situation immediately and remove the difficulties.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** Let me explain the situation. Before the introduction of these rules, there was so much pressure on the airport authorities that it was just not possible to complete all this check. Hours and hours before the departure time passengers were asked to come and congregate and stand in a queue at the airport. This had resulted in an all-round inconvenience and the concerned Ministry, that is, the Civil Aviation Ministry also urged upon the Ministry of External Affairs to do something about it. So, in view of all these inconveniences, we have introduced a set of new rules; a new method has been introduced. Now, we will have to see how it works. If this method also becomes even more inconvenient we will have to look into it. But I think that so far as the congestion at the airport is concerned this is going to be relieved considerably. It has been seen that it is relieved considerably. In the wake of the application of this method, if there is any other inconvenience caused to the passengers, whether they will have to go again and again to the passport office to get the endorsements, what could be done in order to relieve that kind of pressure, we will have to see about that. The passport offices are under pressure at the moment because all the pressure is now transferred from airport to the passport office. We are taking that additional precaution in order to relieve that pressure at the airports. We will

have to see whether there is any other kind of method for relieving this pressure. That we will have to see after observing how this new method works for a few months. As you know, it has been introduced only from the 1st of November.

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY :**  
Sir, the Minister has pointed out that in order to alleviate the sufferings of the overseas Indians these rules are brought in. Now, one of the biggest headaches for overseas Indians (which I think the Minister should try to remove) is the fact that the passport is valid only for 3 years. And no visa is allowed by any country unless the passport is valid for more than 6 months as the time of application. May I know whether the Minister would consider amending these rules further to make the passport valid for 10 years so that this additional bureaucratic work of renewing passport over and over again could be avoided? This is what really overseas Indians want. Would the hon. Minister consider that?

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO ;**  
This question is not connected necessarily with overseas Indians. This is a limited matter. But naturally we will consider if there is any particular advantage in making it a 10-Year passport. But I cannot make any assurance because that may have its own inconvenience, its own difficulties. All the same, I will certainly get it examined.

### **Cancer Research and Treatment Programme**

\*143. **SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government of India have finalised the Cancer Research and Treatment Programme to be taken up with the Central assistance for implementation during the Sixth Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government have included the proposal of Government of Kerala regarding the development of the Cancer unit of the Medical College, Trivendrum as a Regional Cancer Centre in this ; and

(d) if not, when it will be finalised and included ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE I THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) :** (a) Yes, Sir. Decisions regarding the implementation of the Programme have been taken.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

### **STATEMENT**

Depending upon the availability of Plan funds and the fulfilment of the prescribed conditions by the concerned States/Union Territories, financial assistance is provided for :—

I. The development of existing Cancer Institutes into Regional Cancer Research and Treatment Centres. It has been tentatively decided that, depending upon the satisfaction of prescribed conditions by the concerned States/Union Territories, financial assistance may be afforded to the following institutions :

1. Chitranjan National Cancer Research Centre, Calcutta.
2. Cancer Institute, Madras.
3. Institute-Rotary Cancer Hospital, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
4. Cancer Hospital and Research Institute, Gwalior.
5. S. C. B. Medical College Hospital, Cuttack.
6. Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute, Ahmedabad.
7. Dr. B. B. Cancer Institute, Gauhati.
8. Cancer Wing of the Medical College Hospital, Trivendrum
9. Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore.

II. Assistance of Rs. 10.00 lakhs in each case will be afforded to the States/Institutions for installation of Cobalt Therapy Units,