

### **Simplification of Procedure for Issuing Passports**

\*676. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR :

SHRI RAM DAS SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are actively considering a proposal to simplify the procedure of issuing passports;

(b) if so, main indication thereof; and

(c) when will the new simplified procedure be implemented and how?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An examination is now being done to simplify procedures and processes relating to police verification, delegation of more powers to Passport Officers, easy availability of application forms, liberalised endorsement policy, simplified application form, as well as enlarging the categories of persons who can sign verification certificates. The new simplified procedures and processes will be introduced as soon as the examination is over and the decisions on these are arrived at.

### **Telecommunication Delegation to Pakistan.**

\*677. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three-member telecommunication delegation from India had gone to Pakistan for talks;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed;

(c) whether due to the change of Government in Pakistan the delegation could not meet with any success; and

(d) if not, the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Talks covered review of operation of existing telephone, telegraph and telex services via landline links and the establishment of a satellite link between India and Pakistan.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) As a result of these discussions an understanding has been reached on various points. A formal agreement is expected to be signed in the near future.

### **Iron ore Supply to Visakhapatnam, Salem and Vijayanagar Steel Plants**

\*678. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether mines have been identified and earmarked for supply of iron ore to the proposed three new steel plants at Visakhapatnam, Salem and Vijayanagar;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and steps taken in prospecting the mines for producing required quantities of ore by each plant; and

(c) the financial provisions made in the current year for the work?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The requirements of iron ore for the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant are proposed to be met from the new mine at Bailadila Deposit No. 4 and from the existing mine at Bailadila Deposit No. 5. The requirements of the Vijayanagar Steel Plant were originally proposed to be met from the Kumaraswamy Deposits in Karnataka. In the case of the Karnataka Steel Plant, however, an alternative site at Mangalore Port is under consideration. The field investigations and laboratory tests on these iron ore deposits have been completed and work for preparation for project reports has been taken up.

The first phase of Salem Plant does not provide for iron making facilities and in the second phase it is proposed to initially use iron ore from the Mines in the Bellary-Hospet Sector. Samples of ore have also been tested from the Etina-Hatti deposits and the use of Kanjamalai ore is also under consideration.

(c) For the preparation of detailed project report and engineering studies, the following provisions have been made in the Budget :—

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Bailadila Deposit No. 4 | Rs. 6.10 lakhs. |
| Kumaraswamy 'C' Block   | Rs. 6.40 lakhs. |

### **Scheme to Bring Back Indians Living Abroad.**

\*679. SHRI SHIVSAMPATI RAM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are of the view that Indians abroad, including those