

(d) when the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA):

(a) to (d). In the context of the preparation of the Sixth Five Year Plan, a number of Working Groups have been set up by the Planning Commission. The Working Group on Employment of Women is one such. The Working Group has in turn set up five Sub Groups on different aspects of employment of women. The report of one of the Sub Groups has been submitted and those of others are awaited. The Working Group will finalise its report shortly after the Reports of the Sub Groups have all been received.

बिहार सरकार द्वारा रायल्टी में वृद्धि का अनुरोध

* 630. श्री ईश्वर चौधरी: क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने को कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार को लौह अयस्क और तांबे पर रायल्टी में वृद्धि करने और प्रत्येक दो वर्ष के पश्चात् रायल्टी की दरों पर पुनर्विचार करने के बारे में बिहार सरकार से कोई अनुरोध प्रान्त हुआ है, और

(ख) यदि हा, तो इस बारे में केन्द्रीय सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री बीजू पटनायक): (क) जी हा ।

(ख) वर्तमान कानूनों के अन्तर्गत खनिजों की रायल्टी दरों में 4 वर्षों में केवल एक बार वृद्धि की जा सकती है । चूंकि लौह अयस्क और तांबे के संबंध में रायल्टी दरों की समीक्षा होनी है, अतः इन खनिजों की रायल्टी दरों में वृद्धि के शीघ्र संशोधन किए जाने का प्रस्ताव है ।

Delay in Issuing of Passports

*631. **SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that the issue of passport takes about six months now-a-days,

(b) whether it is a fact that the post of Regional Passport Officer, Ahmedabad, is vacant for the last 2 years,

(c) the average number of applications for passport received and passports issued per month before and after the M.P.s. were authorised to sign the verification certificate Region-wise, and

(d) if there is heavy arrears in the issue of passports, how Government contemplate to clear it?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) When passports are supported by Verification Certificates signed by authorised persons, a passport is issued within two months. In other cases, the time taken at present is 4 months.

(b) No, Sir. The post of Regional Passport Officer in Ahmedabad is filled by an Assistant Passport Officer, who is the acting Regional Passport Officer. No post has been left vacant.

(c) A statement giving the monthly average of the number of passport applications received and passports granted during the six monthly period prior to 1st August 1977 and after, is laid on the Table of the House

(d) An additional number of 375 clerical posts, and 8 posts at higher level have been already sanctioned. Proposals to further increase the staff are under consideration in order to clear arrears and to cope with the increased inflow of passport applications.

Statement

S. No.	Passport Office	Period before MPs were authorised to sign Verification Certificates		Period after MPs were authorised to sign Verification Certificates	
		Monthly average of six months Feb. 77 to July 77	Monthly average of six months Aug. 77 to Jan. 78	Monthly average of six months Aug. 77 to Jan. 78	Monthly average of six months Aug. 77 to Jan. 78
		Applications received	Passports issued	Applications received	Passports issued
1	Ahmedabad	7,100	6,198	6,016	7,734
2	Bombay	19,791	17,176	19,777	21,565
3	Calcutta	1,812	1,530	2,484	2,160
4	Chandigarh	11,934	8,201	13,333	10,932
5	Delhi	8,488	6,926	14,407	9,024
6	Ernakulam	18,492	14,331	43,424	21,159
7	Hyderabad	2,665	2,496	8,715	6,544
8	Lucknow	3,228	2,677	6,255	3,628
9	Madras	8,313	6,193	12,198	10,273
Total		81,832	66,208	1,26,609	99,019

American Activities in Indian Ocean

*632. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United States of America have increased their activities in military bases in the Indian Ocean;

(b) whether United States of America have established a military base on St. Martin's Island in Bay of Bengal with the consent of Bangladesh; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAJEE): (a) While the Government of India are aware that construction activity is going on in Diego

Garcia under the authorised allocation upto the fiscal year 1978, we have no information that there has been any recent increase in these activities.

(b) No, Sir. To the best of our information, there is no such military base in existence.

(c) Does not arise.

परिवार नियोजन के लिए राज्यों को प्रमूदान

*633. श्री जय सिंह चाई पटेल : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उन राज्यों को विशेष प्रोत्साहन प्रमूदान देने का विचार है जिनके