

(b) if so, the salient features of the new system and how it is going to help the people in obtaining passports?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Ghagla): (a) and (b) There is no immediate proposal in view because Government had already examined the system for issue of passports and simplified it in June, 1966. The following are some of the main points of simplification already introduced —

- (i) Applicants proceeding abroad at the invitation of relations and friends or for medical treatment are no longer required to furnish sponsorship declarations and medical certificates
- (ii) Persons proceeding to UK, Australia etc. are no longer required to furnish entry permits
- (iii) Financial guarantee is no longer required when an applicant pays income tax or property tax
- (iv) An application accompanied by a verification certificate from a First Class Stipendiary Magistrate or an officer of and above the rank of Deputy Secretary gets priority over all applications, and a passport is issued promptly
- (v) When an application is not supported by a verification certificate but is supported by a sworn affidavit, it also receives due priority, and a passport is issued within a few weeks

Anti-Indian Broadcasts from Moscow Radio

*1999. Shri Swell:
 Shri Atam Das:
 Shri Kamleshwar Singh:
 Shri Hem Barua:
 Shri Marandi:
 Shri J. H. Patel:
 Shri P. N. Sainani:
 Shri M. L. Soodhi:

Shri Mrityunjay Prasad:
 Shri Kartik Oraon:
 Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:
 Shri Shinkre:
 Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
 Shri Zulfiqar Ali Khan:
 Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia
 Shri Madhu Limaye:
 Shri Pilloo Mody:
 Shri S. Kundu:
 Shri Balidhar Behera:
 Shri Sezhyan:
 Shri S. Kandappan:
 Shri Nihal Singh:
 Shri K. P. Singh Deo:
 Shri Sequeira:
 Shri M. Amersey:
 Shri Hukam Chand
 Kachwai:
 Shri Shiv Kumar Shastri:
 Shri Ramavatar Shastri:
 Shri Arjun Singh Bhadoria:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 Dr. Surya Prakash Puri:
 Shri J. Sundar Lal:
 Shri Y. S. Kushwah:
 Shri Yajna Datt Sharma:
 Shri Mahant Digvijai Nath:
 Shri Raghuvir Singh Shastri:
 Shri Ram Avtar Sharma:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Moscow Radio through its external service "Radio Peace and Progress" has been openly and increasingly criticising India, its Government and its political leaders;

(b) whether Government do not consider this as an interference in the internal affairs of the country, and

(c) whether any protest has been made to the U.S.S.R. Government?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Ghagla): (a) Government are aware of the broadcasts made by "Radio Peace and Progress" reported to be operating from the Soviet Union, which are critical of some of the political leaders of India

(b) and (c). Government have raised this matter with the Soviet Representatives in New Delhi as well

as with the Soviet authorities in Moscow through our Embassy there.

Pak Protest against the search of a Scooter Van of Pak High Commission

*1030 Shri Kameshwar Singh: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan protested to India against the alleged search of a scooter van of its High Commission coming out of the Chinese Embassy on 15th June, 1967,

(b) if so whether the Government of India also lodged a protest against Pakistan for assisting China at the time when the Chinese diplomats were expelled from India, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla). (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi was apprised of the concern of the Government of India at its demonstration of solidarity with the Chinese Embassy in the face of latter's display of disrespect to the Government of India

Council of Asia

*1031. Shri R. Barua:
Shri Kameshwar Singh:
Shri Nitiraj Singh
Chaudhary:
Shri A. Shreedharan:
Shri Mangalathumadom:
Shri K. Lakkappa:
Shri N. K. Sanghi:
Shri Bedabrata Barua:
Shri Y. A. Prasad:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have conducted any detailed study of the proposal for a Council of Asia to promote economic co-operation among the countries in the South-East Asia region,

(b) if so, the result thereof,

(c) whether the countries in the region have given any support to the proposal, and

(d) if not how long it is likely to take shape?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) and (b) On the basis of a study about the scope for regional co-operation in South-East Asia, a tentative idea was put forward for a Council of Asia to promote economic co-operation in the region. A further assessment is being made taking into account the reactions and ideas of other countries in the region

(c) and (d) There has been some response expressed through diplomatic channel to the tentative ideas we have put forward, but it would not be proper to disclose the nature of these reactions at this stage as they are confidential. The matter is under constant study but it is difficult to anticipate the time required for an organisation of the nature envisaged, if found feasible to take shape as this depends on the response of other countries of the region

Reorganisation of Indian Statistical Institute

*1032. Shri Samar Guha: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are contemplating a thorough reorganisation of the Indian Statistical Institute according to the recommendations of the Review Committee,

(b) if so, how Government propose to ensure the security, continuity and service conditions of the employees of National Sample Survey Department in particular and the Indian Statistical Institute in general; and

(c) while undertaking such measures of reorganisation of the Indian Statistical Institute, whether Government will give priority to implement the recommendation of the Review Committee on 'Organisation and management'?