

सूचना तो हमारे पास नहीं है। लेकिन हमने पहले कहा है कि एरिया और पापुलेशन का जो मापदण्ड है उसी हिसाब से योजना में राज्य-वार आबंटित किये जाते हैं। अब उसमें किसी प्रकार की कमी होगी, चूंकि हमारे पास मध्य प्रदेश की सूचना नहीं है, तो हम उसको दूर कर देंगे।

**श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय:** माननीय सभापति महोदय, राधवजी ने जो प्रश्न किया है उसी से संबंधित मेरा प्रश्न है। इन्होंने कहा कि मध्य प्रदेश में विभागीय उप-डाकघर खोलने का लक्ष्य 9 है और विभागीय उप-शाखा डाकघर खोलने का लक्ष्य 9 है। फिर मंत्री जी ने जवाब दिया कि क्षेत्रफल और पापुलेशन के आधार पर हम पोस्ट आफिस और सब-पोस्ट आफिस खोलते हैं। सवाल यहां पर यह पैदा होता है कि ठीक उसके नीचे दसवें स्थान पर केरल स्टेट है, वहां पर 9 खुले हैं, जो मंत्री जी ने जवाब दिया उस पर मैं बोल रहा हूं। हमारे मध्य प्रदेश का जो बस्तर डिस्ट्रिक्ट है वह केरल स्टेट से बड़ा है, हरिणया स्टेट से हमारा बस्तर जिला बड़ा है तो मेरा माननीय मंत्री जी से यह अनुरोध है कि क्या आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में लक्ष्य के आधार पर पोस्ट आफिस खोलने जा रहे हैं और पापुलेशन और क्षेत्रफल के आधार के ऊपर डाकघर खोलने जा रहे हैं? मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या ग्राम पंचायत वाइज कोई सर्वे करवाया है कि कितनी जनसंख्या वहां पर है? इन्होंने जवाब दिया कि हम तीन किलोमीटर की रेंज में पोस्ट आफिस खोलेंगे तो क्या इन्होंने तीन किलोमीटर की रेंज के एरिये का सर्वे करवाया है, क्या नेटवर्क बनाया है यदि नहीं तो क्या नेटवर्क बनाने जा रहे हैं? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या मध्य प्रदेश में 9 का टारगेट है?

**श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा:** श्रीमन् जब जनसंख्या की गणना होती है, उसके आंकड़ों के आधार पर ये नये डाकघर खोलने का निर्णय लिया जाता है। अभी जो डाकघर खोलने का औसत है उस हिसाब से हमारे कुछ प्रान्त सम्भवतः बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश और मध्य प्रदेश पीछे हैं। हम कोशिश करेंगे कि इन प्रान्तों को वरीयता दी जाये। आठवीं योजना समाप्त हो रही है। इस कार्य को अगली योजना में शुरू करने का प्रयास किया जा सकता है।

#### **Pending Applications in Hyderabad Passport Office**

\*103. **SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications pending with the Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad as on date;

(b) whether it is a fact that proper attention is not being given to out-station applications; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL):** (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

#### **Statement**

#### **"Pending Applications in Hyderabad Passport Office"**

(a) The total number of passport applications pending with the Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad as on 12.7.1996 is 9,462.

(b) There is no discrimination against outstation applicants as the applications are processed through computers on first come first served basis. On the contrary, special consideration is given to out-station applicants to meet the Passport Officer directly to get their problems solved.

(c) Does not arise.

\*104. [The Questioners (Shri Ragubhai A. Parmar and Shri Gopalsingh G. Solanki) were absent. For answer, vide col.32 *infra*]

#### **Fake Passport Racket in Delhi**

\*105. **SHRIMATI VEENA**

**VERMA:**

**SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR**

**SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a racket involving issue of fake passport and visas was busted in Delhi in May, 1996; and

(b) if so, the details of the persons apprehended and the *modus operandi* of the racket?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL):** (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. One such racket was busted in Delhi by the Delhi Police in May, 1996 in which case FIR No. 91 dated 19.5.96 under section 420/468/471 IPC and 12 of Passports Act, 1967, P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi has been registered.

6 persons have been arrested in this case. The *modus operandi* was to use stolen passports and after removing the original photographs, to affix the photograph of the persons fraudulently obtaining passports. The details of the case are as under:

**Case FIR No. 91 dated 19.5.96 US 420/468/471 IPC & 12 Passports Act, 1967, P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi.**

An information was received in P.S. Jama Masjid that a gang of several members of whom a person identified as Tahir is the leader, is actively engaged to provide passports and visas in Jama Masjid area, on 19.5.96, information was received that Tahir may visit Jama Masjid area in connection to provide fake passports, visas etc. to some customers. On this information, a team under the supervision of ACP/Darya Ganj, Shri M.M. Oberoi and comprising Shri Amarjit Singh, SHO/Jama Masjid, SI Shahid Khan & others planned an elaborate operation to bring Tahir to the forefront and nab him. ACP/Darya Ganj, Shri M.M. Oberoi deployed ASI Ishwar Singh his driver as a decoy customer for obtaining a passport and visa. Contact was established with Tahir and 3 photographs of ASI Ishwar Singh were given to Tahir to arrange a passport. The accused asked for Rs. 10,000/- to do this work. However, after some bargaining, the deal was finalised for Rs. 7,500/- of which Rs. 500/- was paid in advance. It was promised that the remaining money will be paid after the work is completed. Tahir took the money and the photographs and promised to deliver a passport with the photographs provided to him in some other name, in one and an half hour. At about 3.15 p.m. Tahir came to the gate of Dargah Sheikh Karimullah, Jama Mas-

jid, where he had agreed to make the delivery. A trap was laid by ACP/Darya Ganj, Shri M.M. Oberoi. At the given time when Tahir approached the gate of Dargah Sheikh Karimullah, contact was established by ASI Ishwar Singh. Tahir handed over the passport no. 072751 issued on 10.10.91 in the name of one Nizam Haider. The photograph of ASI Ishwar Singh were affixed on this passport. At this point the police team swung into action and arrested Tahir and recovered four other passports from his possession.

Interrogation of the accused revealed that he used an elaborate system of couriers and agents comprising mainly ladies to conduct the business. He rarely came in the forefront himself. On his interrogation 5 couriers were arrested from Subhash Park, Jama Masjid later identified as:—

1. Hussain Bano w/o Jameel r/o Welcome (30 years)
2. Khurishida w/o Ishaq r/o New Seema Puri (40 years)
3. Warisa w/o Raees r/o Loni, Ghaziabad (40 years)
4. Chamman w/o Maqbool r/o Welcome (45 years)
5. Rafikhan w/o Akhtar Hussain r/o Welcome (40 years)

Further interrogation of accused Tahir revealed that he was earlier arrested in case FIR No. 23392 u/s 467/468/471 IPC & 34 TADA, P.S. Chandni Mahal in which he had provided a fake passport to a Kashmiri Militant. He spent 8 months in judicial custody in this case.

From search of the other accused arrested in this case, 5 more passport have been recovered. The case is pending investigation.

**SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHARAO SHINDE:** Sir, I request you to club Question No. 105 with Question No. 103 because it is the same as 103.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Yes, both are about passports. Hon. Minister would you

agree to club these questions. One is about racket and the other is about passports.

**SHRI I.K. GUJRAL:** I have no objection.

**SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, it seems the passport Office wants people to visit them from outside Hyderabad. For every small mistake, the Passport Office rejects the application. People in villages are unable to understand why the application has been rejected. Then they run to Hyderabad and contact touts and others and try to apply afresh.

It has been the common experience that outstation applicants are particularly harassed. I would like to know what special arrangements the Passport Office will make to deal with outstation applicants. What steps will be taken to ensure that passports are not held up for minor details? The number of applications pending is 9,462. When will it be cleared?

**SHRI I. K. GUJRAL:** Before I reply to my hon. friend's question, I must say that I share the distress felt about the functioning of the passport offices. I am myself very unhappy about it. For the last two days, I have been taking interest myself and we have initiated some steps. The complaints that my hon. friends have mentioned, I think, I can endorse them even before hearing them because I see everyday the complaints that come. At my level, people have been approaching me for issue of passports which by itself is distressing. I have initiated some steps but it would be useless for me to tell you as to what I will do and what I will not do. I can only assure this House and before going into the details I would say that two to three things are causing difficulties and it takes a lot of time. One is, of course, police verification.

What is happening is that any official at Joint Secretary level or Deputy Secretary level will verify and then the police report is not needed. I am also giving authority to public sector officials of the same rank in the public sector companies,

and they can also verify. One of the things which is causing great difficulty is that a rule has been passed that every passport-holder must get a new passport issued after every ten years. I am abolishing this. I see no reason why people should have to ask for passport renewal after ten years. I am also taking steps to computerise all that. I have issued instructions that surprise visits should be made to every office by the officials in the Ministry. I am also taking steps to appoint straightway a passport advisory committee of public men including Members of Parliament. Therefore, I would only say that the public is facing difficulties. I contribute to the idea that passport is the right of every Indian and he should be given without any difficulty.

It is not something that a favour is done. I am conscious of the fact that there are many complaints. I am conscious of the fact that complaints of corruption are there which are not unjustified. Therefore, please give me time and I will try to do it.

**SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is true that through travel agents they are getting passport immediately. I would like to know whether you have this information or not.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Through travel agents do they get passports immediately?

**SHRI I. K. GUJRAL:** Well, that is one of the reasons for corruption, as the hon. Member has rightly pointed out. I think when I am looking into the whole thing, I am not ignoring any dimension that my hon. friend has mentioned.

**SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:** Sir, from the reply to a question answered in August 1995 in the Lok Sabha, it appears that between 1991 and 1995, 4, 902 cases of fake passports were detected. This obviously represents the tip of the iceberg. One out of hundred cases is being detected; this shows the malady is deep-rooted. It is mainly attributed to the delay and complexities involved in the

process of issue of passports and as a result of this, passport rackets are flourishing and operating with the connivance of officers and bureaucrats. May I know what percentage of passport applications is complied with or rejected within the prescribed period of 45 days? I would like to know whether the Government is aware that personnel in passport offices openly collect money to deliver passports, even when all the process of verification etc. is over.

**SHRI I. K. GUJRAL:** I am not able to tell the hon. Member as to what is the number etc., but I can only tell this much. On an average, the total number of applications received is 17-18 lakhs a year, and the disposal is about 17 lakhs; that is why the backlog gets built up; that is why there is a backlog.

It got built up, I am told, some years back, for some reasons; I do not want to go into that. There is the difficulty. The situation is bad; it definitely needs improvement and that is what I can promise.

**SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:** Sir, the Parliamentary Standing Committee for the Ministry of External Affairs had recommended last year that a passport office be opened in the Capital of each State, in order to speed up the issue of passports and to eliminate racketeering in passports. May I know which the State capitals are which are still without passport offices and what steps have since been taken by the Government in response thereto?

**SHRI I.K.GUJRAL :** We have 23 passport offices. As a matter of fact, today, I have taken a decision. At present Delhi, for instance, deals with Haryana also. I have issued instructions to delink it straightaway. Haryana applications will have to be dealt with in Haryana. Similarly, we used to have a passport office in Srinagar. For different reasons, we had to close it down, but we are trying to revive that if the hon. Member points out any State capital where it is still needed, I will give it a very sympathetic hearing.

**श्री सुशील कुमार संभाजीराव शिन्दे:** सर, प्रथम तो मैं मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। उनका अनुभव उस डिपार्टमेंट में अम्बेसडर और फिर दुबारा मंत्री रहना— और तीसरी बार ये मंत्री हैं, तो इस कारण एक्जक्वेली उनके लिए जाना पहचाना है कि यह पासपोर्ट रैकेट क्या होता है। आपने कुछ सजेसंस भी सुन लिए हैं। अगर आप सोचते हैं कि इसको करेक्ट करें तो मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो इसमें डिले होती है करप्शन वहाँ हो रहा है। इसका एक कारण यह भी है कि कई पासपोर्ट आफिसर की अपनी खुद की जगह नहीं है। छोटी जगह होने की वजह से वह क्राउडेड रहता है और वहाँ के आफिसर लोगों को अटेंड नहीं कर पाते हैं। इसकी वजह से जल्दी पासपोर्ट पाने के लिए मोडस अपरेन्डी फेक पासपोर्ट होता है, यह आपके ख्याल में आया होगा। मुंबई जैसे शहर में आपके पासपोर्ट आफिस के लिए जगह नहीं है, तो आप अपनी खुद की पासपोर्ट बिल्डिंग बनाने के लिए या इसी बिल्डिंग को बड़ा बनाने के लिए कुछ प्रयास करेंगे? आपने अभी तक इस देश में कितने फेक पासपोर्ट ट्रेस किये हैं, मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ।

**श्री इन्द्र कुमार गुजराल:** सभापति जी, जहाँ तक ताल्लुक है कि जगह की कमी कहाँ कहाँ है। यह तो मेरे नोटिस में आया है कि जगह की कमी दिल्ली में भी है। मुंबई में आपने फरमाया तो ठीक ही कहा होगा, मैं यह मानने के लिए तैयार हूँ। इसलिए मैं सारा रिप्रेजेंटेशन कर रहा हूँ कि कहाँ कहाँ जगह की कमी है। कहाँ कहाँ भवन बनाएँ, इससे तो बात लम्बी हो जाएगी, भवन बनते रहेंगे, 10 साल तक बात हो नहीं पाएगी। इसलिए इस तरफ मैं कम ध्यान दे रहा हूँ। जहाँ जहाँ लोड ज्यादा है मसलन दिल्ली में लोड ज्यादा है इसलिए उसको दो में कर दिया, हरियाणा का अलग कर दिया। अगर मुंबई में लोड ज्यादा है तो मुंबई के इलाक़े पूना या किसी दूसरे शहर में दफ्तर खोल सकते हैं, डिसेंट्रलाइजेशन कर सकते हैं। यह बेहतर तरीका होगा (व्यवधान)

**श्री एन० के० पी० साल्वे:** नागपुर में खोल दें (व्यवधान)

**श्री सुशीलकुमार संभाजीराव शिन्दे:** नागपुर में हो रहा है, पूना में करना बहुत ठीक है (व्यवधान)

**SHRI I.K. GUJRAL:** When I said 'Pune' it was not meant as a commitment. It was an example. If he and Mr. Salve can sort it out among themselves, I will accept that.

**विपक्ष के नेता (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त):** सदर साहब, मेरा कोई इरादा नहीं था, अब वक्त भी नहीं रहा है। आनरेबल मिनिस्टर साहब की कोशिशें दाखिल रही हैं इस बात में कि पासपोर्ट इश्यु के तरीके में सहूलियतें आ जाएं। लेकिन दो बातें सुन कर मैं जानना चाहता हूँ रिन्यूअल आफ पासपोर्ट के सिलसिले में जो आपने अबोलिश करने का हुक्म दिया है तो क्या आपने इस पर गौर कर लिया है कि जो पासपोर्ट इश्यु हुआ है 10 साल में उसने कोई डिस्क्वालीफिकेशन तो अर्न नहीं किया है या आपने इसका कोई दूसरा आल्टरनेटिव ऑरेंजमेंट कर लिया है जब किसी किसम का कोई कनक्वेंशन हो तो उसी वक्त पासपोर्ट जब्त कर लिया जाए। एक बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ और दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपने पुलिस रिपोर्ट का क्या आल्टरनेटिव सोचा है। पार्लियामेंट के मैम्बर्स से जिम्मेदारी हटा देना दुरुस्त था। क्या आपने गौर किया है कि दोनों बातें किस तरीके से अख्तियार की जाएं एक्सपीडिट करने के लिए?

**श्री सिकन्दर बख्त:** सदर साहब - मिरा कौी ار اردن نہیں تھا۔ اب وقت بھی نہیں رہا ہے۔ آنریبل منسٹر صاحب کی کوششیں داخل رہی ہیں اس بات میں کہ پاسپورٹ اشو کے طریقے میں سمبولیتیں آجائیں۔ لیکن دو باتیں سنکر میں جانا چاہتا ہوں ریونیول آف پاسپورٹ کے سلسلہ میں جو اپنے ایولوشن کرنے کا حکم دیا ہے تو کیا آپ اس پر غور کر لیا ہے کہ جو پاسپورٹ اشو ہوا ہے دس سال میں اسے کوئی ٹکس کو ایفائی تو اردن نہیں کیا ہے یا اپنے اسکا کوئی دوسرا انٹرنیشنل ایجنٹ کر لیا ہے جب کسی قسم کی کور کونشن ہو تو اسی وقت پاسپورٹ عنایت

لیا جائے۔ ایک بات میں یہ جانتا چاہتا ہوں اور دوسری بات میں یہ جانتا چاہتا ہوں کہ اپنے پولیس ہاؤس ملا کیا انٹرنیشنل سوچا ہے۔ پارلیمنٹ کے ممبرس سے ذمہ داری عطا دینا درست تھا۔ کیا آپ نے غور کیا ہے کہ دونوں باتیں کس طریقے سے اختیار کی جائیں ایکسیپیڈ انٹ کرنے کیلئے

**श्री इन्द्र कुमार गुजराल:** जहां तक हज़ूर ताल्लुक है इस बात का कि आया 10 साल की बात को हटाय़ा जाए, मेरी राय यह है कि जिस आदमी का पासपोर्ट 9 साल 11 महीने तक ठीक है उसको दसवें साल में खत्म नहीं होना चाहिए और बहुत सारा वज़न इसलिए बढ़ा है कि 10 साल के बाद हम से कहते हैं कि रिन्यू करवो। किसी ने कोई ज़ुर्म किया अगर उसकी शिकायत आती है तो एक्शन लिया जाता है।

**श्री सिकन्दर बख्त:** गत आदमियों के पास पासपोर्ट न रहे, इसके बारे में आपने क्या सोचा है? (व्यवधान)

**श्री सिकन्दर बख्त:** غلط آدمیوں کے پاس پاسپورٹ نہ رہے۔ اس کے بارے میں آپ نے کیا سوچا ہے۔ .... "مداخلت"۔۔۔

**SHRI I.K. GUJRAL:** Sir, basically, I think—subject to correction—my feeling is, this 'rule of the thumb' that everybody should get his passport renewed after ten years has added a great deal of burden, has added to the load, of the passport offices, unnecessarily, apart from harassing the people. When a citizen has been holding a passport for nine years and eleven months, I see no reason why he should not continue to have it after ten years also, unless he wants something to be changed. For instance, his facial expression may undergo a change. Tomorrow

row, if Mr. Sikander Bakht decides to grow a beard like me, naturally, he would come to me for issue of a new passport.

Now, Sir, another thing which we are doing to reduce the burden is this. Please give me a minute. Sir, many people come to us. This is in regard to the passport books which are small. This creates difficulties when a person travels frequently. Therefore, today, I have issued instructions that we should introduce three types of passport books—of different sizes; sixty pages and hundred pages—so that the issue of visa also becomes easier.

So far as verification is concerned, police verification is a hallowed subject. Ultimately, a small constable does it. That is why we have authorised, in the Government of India, Deputy Secretaries and above; in the State Government, Joint Secretaries and above; and in the public sector, persons of equivalent rank.

**डा० वाई० लक्ष्मी प्रसाद:** माननीय सभापति महोदय? मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि नये पासपोर्ट आफिस खोलने और पासपोर्ट के साइज़ बढ़ाने के लिए उन्होंने उदार दृष्टि अपनाई है। मैं इस सिलसिले में मंत्री महोदय से आपके माध्यम से नये पासपोर्ट आफिस खोलने के विषय में एक विनती करना चाहता हूँ। हमारे आन्ध्र प्रदेश में हैदराबाद में एक आफिस है। तिरुपति और विशाखापत्तनम से सात सौ किलोमीटर दूर से हमें पासपोर्ट के लिए आना पड़ता है। इसके पहले विजयवाड़ा में एक पासपोर्ट आफिस था जिसको पाँच साल पहले बन्द कर दिया गया है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहना चाहता हूँ कि नये पासपोर्ट आफिस की बात तो छोड़ दीजिए कम से कम विजयवाड़ा के आफिस को खोल दीजिए। जो बंद कर दिया गया था उसको खोलने की प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ।

**SHRI I.K. GUJRAL:** This will receive my sympathetic consideration.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Question Hour is over

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Clearance of Irrigation Projects

\*104. **SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:**  
**SHRI GOPALSINGH G. SOLANKI:**

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major, medium and small irrigation projects from Gujarat awaiting Central Government's clearance from environmental angle;

(b) the names and details of the projects together with the year of district-wise proposals submitted by the State Government; and

(c) by when these are likely to be cleared?

**THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA):** (a) and (b) As present policy, while major irrigation projects need clearance from environmental angle, medium and minor irrigation projects do not require such clearance. Only one Major Project, namely, Machchu-I Modernisation Project, received in February, 1991, envisaging ultimate irrigation potential of 2140 hectares is pending due to non-clearance from environmental angle. The scheme after techno-economic examination, was found acceptable by the Advisory Committee in August, 1993 subject to environmental clearance and concurrence of State Finance Department.

(c) The State Government is required to furnish compliance to the observations of the Advisory Committee. It depends upon State Government how soon it complies with these observations.

### देश में सिंचाई सुविधा

\*106. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या जल संसाधन यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में कुल 142