

transfer the officials who are overstaying the fixed tenure to provide better service to general public; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (h) while no tenure of stay has been formally fixed it would be desirable for all officials (except Group 'D' officials and those taken on deputation) to have a tenure of 3-5 years depending on their grades. A number of officials working in various passport Offices, including Delhi, have been in position for over 4 years. The Government, however, is not aware of this having resulted in their developing links with touts. Administrative guidelines governing transfers of the officials of Passport Offices are being framed. In future transfers will be regulated by these guidelines.

The public are free to visit the Regional Passport Office at Delhi from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on every working day except Wednesdays. On an average the office receives 1000 visitors who are serviced at 10 counters.

B.B.C. film on nuclear energy in India

3668. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH
CHATURVEDI: DR. MURLI
MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the B.B.C. had recently shown a film on the use of nuclear energy by India;

(b) if so, whether Government had given permission for the filming of the above documentary in India;

(c) whether the film shows India in bad light; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The Government is not aware of BBC having recently shown a film on nuclear energy in India. There was, however, a documentary titled 'Nuclear India: A dream gone sour' which was shown on Channel 3 of ITV.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The film seems to be motivated with a view to denigrate the achievements of India in the peaceful application of nuclear energy. The allegations made against India have been suitably rebutted through our High Commission in London to counter the misinformation brought out in the ITV film.

Rail link between Calcutta and North Eastern States via Bangladesh

3669. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: SHRI
ASHIS SEN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the matter with the Bangladesh Government for rail movement and water transport between North-Eastern States and Calcutta via Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bangladesh authorities have been approached several times in the past with a request for providing rail transit facilities across the Bangladesh railway system. We already have an Inland Waterways Protocol with Bangladesh, linking Calcutta with two points in Assam. However, since this arrangement leaves our States of Tripura and Meghalaya untouched, we have also approached the Bangladesh authorities