

Advisory Committee for issuing passports

2312. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to have an Advisory Committee of public men including MPs to attend complaints regarding issuing of passports ; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to set up Passport Advisory Committees at three levels ; (i) Central level in New Delhi (ii) Passport Office level and (iii) Indian Mission Post level. Each Passport issuing office will have one Passport Advisory Committee.

High-level panel to monitor activities of terrorist groups in Punjab and J/K

2313. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up any high-level panel to monitor the activities of terrorist groups functioning in Punjab and J&K;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the achievements of the panel so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, an inter-Ministerial Advisory Group has been constituted to assess the developing situation in certain troubled areas including Punjab and J&K on a regular basis to evolve ideas and suggestions regarding the Government's responses and line of action from time to time.

Violation of traffic guidelines

2314. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are clear guidelines on height of road dividers and footpaths for roads and if so, the reasons for violation of such guidelines in Delhi ; and

(b) whether Government are aware that on several roads like Ring Road and Outer Ring Road, traffic lights are being fixed within a few yards of each other causing serious confusion ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Road Congress has laid down clear guidelines regarding the height of road dividers and footpaths. These guidelines are being generally observed by the Road Construction Agencies in Delhi.

(b) Traffic lights at road intersections in Delhi, including Ring Road and Outer Ring Road, are being installed to avoid confusion and to ensure a regulated movement of vehicles.

Recommendations of the Committee on problems of extra departmental employees of postal service

2315. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee constituted in the year, 1984 to go into various problems of Extra-Departmental staff of Postal Service had submitted its recommendations;

(b) if so, what were the major recommendations of the said Committee;

(c) whether Government had accepted the same; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee had made 171 recommendations. The major recommendations are listed in the attached statement. (*See below*).

(c) All the recommendations made by the Committee were discussed with service Unions and in the Consultative Committee Meeting of the Members of Parliament attached to the Ministry of Communications. 120 recommendations including 32 recommendations with certain modifications were accepted and implemented.

(d) Some recommendations of Savor Committee, if implemented, would, have resulted in drop of emoluments to ED agents and closure of a large number of branch post offices. In the interest of ED agents such recommendations of the Committee were not accepted by the Government.

Statement

Main recommendations of the Committee of enquiry on the Extra Departmental System.

1. The Committee has supported the theory of 'equal pay for equal work', and recommended hourly rate comparable to the wages of Departmental staff.
2. Payment of D.A. to E.D. employees as and when it is sanctioned to regular employees.
3. Extra Departmental System to continue in the Postal set up for performances of postal functions only. It has recommended abolition of all categories of Extra Departmental employees except-

ing (i) Extra Departmental Branch Postmaster (ii) Extra Departmental Delivery Agents (iii) Extra Departmental Mail Carrier (iv) Extra Departmental Packer and (v) Extra Departmental Mail Man.

4. Abolition of the cadre of the Extra Departmental Stamp vendors.
5. All Extra Departmental Branch Offices (12,662) working within 3 Kms. of each other in violation of the existing standards to be closed.
6. All Extra Departmental Branch Offices (about 35374) which do not earn income equal to 20% of their cost to be closed and postal facilities to be provided through L.P.A. system at a monthly retainer fee of Rs. 50/-.
7. The permissible limit of loss per annum of retaining an ED Office after five years of its opening to be raised to Rs. 2400/- from the existing limit of 25% of the estimated cost. In the case of hilly and backward areas it be raised to Rs. 4800/- per annum from 10% of the estimated cost.
8. An E.D. office may be allowed to be retained after 5 years only if it earns atleast 50% of its cost and is also within the annual loss limit referred to in item (7) above.
9. Seventh Plan target of opening of new EDBOs to be reviewed.
10. (a) Combination of functions of EDBPM, EDDA, ED Packer in one individual wherever feasible and compensating the individual on separate hourly rate basis as stated (1) above.
(b) To revise the present norm of keeping a B. D. open

compulsorily 3 hours irrespective of the workload.

11. Abolition of orders lies for Sub Divisional IPOs and paying a lumpsum amount in lieu thereof.
12. Abolition of the cadre of mail overseer.
13. Introduction of a cadre of Assistant Sub Division Inspector.
14. Evolving time test for assessing work hour in each B.O. on the same principle as it is done for Departmental Offices.
15. Minimum service for eligibility to receive gratuity to be reduced to 5 years from 15 years.
16. The amount of gratuity to be paid at the rate of half months emoluments for every completed year of service.
17. Maximum age limit for recruitment of EDA Agents to be 28 years and minimum educational qualification to be 8th Standard.

Activities of Kashmir American Council

2316. SHRI SURESH KALMA-DI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of recent press report stating that the Kashmir American Council, an organisation of expatriates, has hired a high powered lobbying firm in America to create support for self-determination for the people of Kashmir; and

(b) what is the reaction of Government and the action Government propose to take to counter the propaganda by this firm ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJ-

RAL): (a) The Government has seen reports to this effect.

(b) The Government has made known its views to the US Government and influential members of the US Congress.

Loading and unloading at Kandla Port

2317. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of ships waiting for getting berth at Kandla Port for the last two months for unloading; and

(b) how many of them are for export only ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) There is no ship waiting for getting a berth at Kandla Port since the last two months.

(b) Does not arise.

Experience of friendly countries in facing terrorism

2318. SHRI RAJ MOHAN GANDHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have obtained from friendly countries their experiences in facing terrorism, linked with the drug traffic;

(b) if so, whether any useful knowledge has been acquired; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Govt. propose to contact the friendly countries in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME