

Sanctioned Strength of Officer* in Pondicherry

5=8. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the sanctioned strength of officers for the Union Territory of Pondicherry for Secretaries in I A.S. Cadre, Secretaries in non-I A S cadre and Pondicherry Civil Service Officers in Entry Grade and Selection Grade ;

(b) the existing strength of the above said cadres in all the regular posts including ex-cadre posts ; and

(e) whether Government have permitted the Pondicherry Administration to have personnel more than that of the sanctioned strength of the above cadres ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): 'a) In Pondicherry Administration there are 8 posts of Secretaries. Out of these posts 7 are included in Union Territories cadre of LAS. The remaining one post of Secretary (Law) is a non-IAS post. The permanent strength of Pondicherry Civil Services is 40 out of which 8 posts are in Selection Grade and remaining posts are in Entry grade.

(b) and (c) In all, 8 posts in Pondicherry Administration are included in U.T. Cadre of I.A.S. In addition one IAS officer is appointed on ex-cadre post of Managing Director, Pondicherry Industrial Promotion Development and Investment Corporation Limited. The authorised permanent strength of Pondicherry Civil Service is 40. In addition 15 posts are added to the service as temporary addition in exercise of powers delegated to the Administrator.

In addition to 55 officers on these posts, officiating arrangements have

been made by Pondicherry Administration in exercise of powers delegated to Administrator against 17 officers of Pondicherry Civil Services who are working on foreign service or on transfer to ex-cadre posts.

Delay in issue of Passports

559. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the maximum time taken by the authorities to issue a passport to a citizen when all the formalities are completed ;

(b) whether it has come to Government's notice that the passport applicants of Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad) are unable to get their passports even after a lapse of five to six months as reported in the local newspapers of Hyderabad ; and

(c) what are the reasons for delay and what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) Normally five working days after the receipt of both security and identity verification reports on the Passport applicants.

(b) and (c) No, sir. In fact the Passport Office, Hyderabad had disposed of 8,466 Passport applications in October, 85, compared to receipt of 5,772 applications during that month. Total arrears are 9,395 (under 3 months: 6,721, over 3 months: 2,674) > which amount to just over one month's output. The pendency is entirely due to late receipt or non-receipt of police verification reports or non-completion of application forms by Passport applicants. We are doing our best to expedite the police reports for which the state Governments are responsible.