

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES
(SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Demands of students and unemployed youths

*666. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM
KHAN: SHRI DEORAO
PATIL: SHRI BAPURAOJI
MAROT-
RAOJI DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that students and unemployed youths belonging to the Youth Federation and Students' Federation recently held a conference in Delhi at which they urged the Government to provide employment guarantee and un-employment allowance; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action Government have taken on their demand?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The All India Youth Federation and the All India Students' Federation held a meeting on 29th November, 1977 in New Delhi. A copy of the Memorandum of the two Federations addressed to the Prime Minister *inter-alia* contained suggestions for a job guarantee scheme for immediate implementation and payment of unemployment allowance to the unemployed.

Government have already stated that in order to remove unemployment within a definite time frame, it is proposed to adopt an employment-oriented strategy for development and the next Five Year Plan is expected to have a high employment content. Government are of the view

that payment of unemployment allowance is not feasible and it would be more expedient to utilise the available resources for the generation of productive employment opportunities to provide satisfactory work to all concerned.

U.S.A. Military Base in Diego Garcia

*667. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: SHRI DHARAMCHAND
JAIN: SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of USA have decided to expand their air and naval bases in Diego Garcia; and

(b) if so, what is the Government of India's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) The Government do not have any information to this effect.

(b) Does not arise.

*668. [Transferred to the 20th December, 1977.]

Pending applications for Passports in Delhi Regional Passport Office

*669. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR
ADIVAREKAR: SHRIMATI PRATIBHA
SINGH: SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications received in the Regional Passport Office, New Delhi for the issue of passports since July, 1977, month-wise and how many of them are pending at present; and

(b) by when the pending applications are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House, showing the number of applications for passports received during the period July, 1977—November, 1977, the number of passports granted during the same period, the number of pending applications as on 1 December, 1977, as well as the number of complete applications pending over a month.

(b) Applications for passports are picked up for processing according to the dates on which they are received. Currently, in the case of complete applications supported by Verification Certificates signed by Members of Parliament, Government officers of the rank of Deputy Secretary and above and Stipendiary 1st Class Magistrates, there is a 2-month time-lag between the receipt of an application and the issue of a passport. In cases of applications not supported by Verification Certificates, the time-lag is 4 months. The pending complete applications in the former category will be disposed of within 2 months while these in the latter category will be disposed of within 4 months from the date of their receipt.

Statement

Regional Passport Office, Delhi

	No. of Applications for passports (1977)	No. of Passports granted (1977)
July	8356	7700
August	10975	8015
September	13348	9044
October	13365	11009
November	14411	11026
TOTAL	60455	46794

No. of pending applications as on 1-12-1977—42,558.

No. of applications pending for event of additional information/documentation—7,927.

No. of complete applications pending over a month—30,001.

Authorised Agents for Recruitment of Labour for Gulf countries

*670. SHRI PATITPABAN PRADHAN: SHRI LOKNATH MISRA:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state the number of authorised agents for recruiting skilled and unskilled labour for employment in the Gulf countries in each State as on the 31st October, 1977?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

State-wise distribution of Recruiting Agents granted registration till 31st October, 1977

Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of Recruiting Agents granted registration
1. Maharashtra	160
2. Delhi	45
3. Kerala	10
4. Punjab	4
5. Gujarat	7
6. West Bengal	5
7. Tamil Nadu	11
8. Rajasthan	2
9. Andhra Pradesh	4
10. Uttar Pradesh	1
11. Chandigarh	5
TOTAL	254

Wrong Billing of Telephone Line in Hauz Khas Exchange

♦671. SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the telephone bills in respect of line 678, Hauz Khas Exchange, New Delhi are either wrong or sent very late as a result of which subscribers are put to a lot of inconvenience;

(b) if so, what is the number of such cases brought to the notice of