

(b) whether Government propose to provide them with rented accommodation at rates equivalent to their house rent allowance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Re-imbusement of Tuition Fees to Postmen

1207. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the procedure which is being followed for reimbursing tuition fees to postmen is very elaborate and cumbersome; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to simplify the procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Medical Facilities for Postmen in Maharashtra

1208. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a number of complaints from postmen in Bombay, Poona and Nagpur to the effect that the medical treatment available to them at the departmental dispensaries is far from satisfactory; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Some complaints have been received from the postal employees' Unions against unsatisfactory treatment at the Central

Government Health Scheme Dispensaries at Bombay and Nagpur and the P&T Dispensaries at Pune.

(b) The complaints against the Central Government Health Scheme dispensaries have been brought to the notice of the appropriate authorities for suitable action. At Bombay, complaints made by Union representatives were taken up by the Postmaster General with the local authorities of the Central Government Health Scheme. At Nagpur, the position regarding various points raised were explained to the Union representatives in a meeting arranged by the Central Government Health Scheme authorities. As regards P&T dispensaries at Pune, suitable instructions have been issued to the Medical Officers concerned.

Passports issued from Ahmedabad Regional Passport Office

1209. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of passports issued by the Regional Passport Office at Ahmedabad during the period from March, 1976 to November, 1977, month-wise;

(b) what is the number of applications which were received during the period from March, 1976 to November, 1977, month-wise;

(c) what is the number of applications rejected during the above period; and

(d) what were the reasons of rejection of those applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU):

(a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House showing the number of applications received in and passports granted by the Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad, during the period March, 1976—November, 1977, month-wise;

(c) No application for passport facilities was rejected during the above period.

(d) does not arise.

Statement

Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad

Month	Applications for Passports	Passports granted
1976		
March	8,459	6,005
April	8,100	5,080
May	5,100	5,028
June	5,007	5,021
July	5,006	5,226
August	5,172	5,010
September	5,800	4,698
October	4,704	4,045
November	6,604	5,052
December	8,361	5,565
1977		
January	8,448	5,555
February	7,748	5,310
March	7,909	5,803
April	7,734	5,811
May	6,012	6,060
June	6,779	6,666
July	6,418	7,178
August	7,249	7,184
September	5,576	6,082
October	5,025	6,809
November	4,893	6,009
TOTAL	1,36,104	1,19,197

Abolition of contract labour system in Bidi Industry

1210. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to abolish contract labour system in the bidi industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI LARANG SAI): (a) and (b) The matter falls essentially in the State sphere and the "Appropriate Govt." under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act in the case of bidi industry are the State Governments concerned.

Payment of Bonus to Bidi Workers

1211. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the States/Union territories where bidi workers have been paid bonus at the rate of 8.33 per cent during 1977; and

(b) whether there are any States/Union territories, where such bonus has not been paid to the bidi workers if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b) The information is not available and will be collected. Payment of bonus in terms of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 is a statutory obligation. The State Governments are the 'Appropriate Government' under the Act in respect of bidi factories/establishments.

Representation from the All India Plantation Workers Federation

1212. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the All India Plantation Workers Federation;

(b) if so, what are the details of the representation; and