

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

Government during the last six months; and

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAD: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 44 complaints were received about non-issue/non-receipt of bills and 32 about wrong bills.

(c) Arrangements are being made to switch over the billing work to a new Computer Agency.

Post of Secretary in the Indian Council of Cultural Relations

*672. SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI:
SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:
SHRI PIARE LALL KUREEL
URF PIARE LALL TALIB:
SHRI KHURSHED ALAM
KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Secretary in the Indian Council- of Cultural Relations has been declared a vacancy when the present incumbent is holding the post on deputation; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the deputation of the present incumbent was approved by the competent authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Opening of Passport Offices

*673. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISO-
DIA: SHRIMATI HAMIDA
HABI-
BULLAH: SHRI PRAKASH
MEHRO-
TRA: SHRI GURUDEV
GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL

AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to open passport offices in every State in order to save time of the people who have to travel long distances for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) and (b) It is the objective of Government to open as many passport offices as possible. The criterion for opening such an office in a State is that at least 30,000 applications for passports must be received from it in a year. Government are keeping a continuous watch on the level of applications for Passports from each State and the opening of an office in a particular State will be considered as soon as the number of applications received from it reach this figure.

Teleprinters in Indian Scripts

*674. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that teleprinters in all the Indian scripts are not available; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present the demand for teleprinters in Indian scripts other than Devanagari is not adequate to justify commercial production.

Import of Ooking Coal

*675. SHRI KALYAN ROY:
SHRI BIRCHANDRA DEB
BURMAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item