

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?