

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