

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Government have already sanctioned an additional 247 posts in the various Regional Passport Offices. Apart from these posts, ad-hoc increases are sanctioned from time to time.

It may be mentioned that on present estimates, it will be possible to issue nearly one million passports during the Current financial year, against approximately 574,000 passports issued last year. This large increase in one year has naturally led to considerable pressure on our Passport Offices. Government is keeping a watch on the situation and will undertake further appropriate measures as and when necessary.

Statement

The number of application for passport pending in the Regional Passport Offices as on 1st November, 1977 is detailed below:—

Passport Office	No. of Applications for passports pending on 1st November, 1977	Of which, number pending for want of Additional Information/Documentation from Applicants
1. Ahmedabad	22,399	1,738
2. Bombay	26,931	13,939
3. Calcutta	5,403	3,323
4. Chandigarh	44,971	15,006
5. Delhi	39,173	11,451
6. Ernakulam	1,02,453	14,623
7. Hyderabad	24,892	7,750
8. Lucknow	17,842	6,210
9. Madras	37,696	5,152
	3,21,760	79,192

Allegation of India's involvement in the abortive Coup in Bangladesh

- 136. SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR: SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR: SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA: SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOUDHURY: SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the allegations reportedly made by the authorities in Bangladesh of India's involvement in the recent army coup in that country; and

(b) whether Government of India have taken up the matter with the

Government of Bangladesh and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government's attention was drawn to the Statement made by the President of Bangladesh on 1st October, 1977 which contained references implying involvement of India in the incidents that took place in Bogra and Dacca in Bangladesh on 30th September and 2nd October, 1977-

(b) The matter was taken up immediately with the Government of Bangladesh which has assured the Government of India that there has been no intention on the part of the Bangladesh Government to imply India's involvement in these incidents.