

(b) whether they have demanded protection from retrenchment after the completion of the project; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The employees of the Farakka Barrage Project have been demanding that the surplus staff of the Project should be provided with alternative employment on completion of the Project.

(c) Efforts continue to be made to explore possible avenues of employment for the departmental employees of the Farakka Barrage Project who will be rendered surplus on the completion of the Project. An Officer on Special Duty has been appointed with headquarters at Calcutta. He is incharge of the Special Cell under the Directorate General of Employment & Training to deal with the absorption of staff which will be rendered surplus.

U. S. AMBASSADOR'S DISCLOSURE OF GUIDELINES FOR U. S. AID TO INDIA

770. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. Ambassador in India has recently disclosed in public the U.S. Governments guidelines for aid to India;

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

(c) whether the action of the U.S. Ambassador come under the normal protocol; and

(d) if not, what steps have been taken to stop such misuse of their position by foreign representatives?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Speaking in Bihar recently, the U.S. Ambassador mentioned the outlines of the new policies which would guide U.S. foreign aid programmes for all countries and not specifically India.

(b) The outlines of the new U. S. policies to guide U.S. foreign aid as mentioned in (a) above are :—

(i) US will lay greater emphasis on multilateral institutions for channeling its economic assistance;

(ii) Private investment should play a central role in the development process;

(iii) The trade policies among the industrialised nations must recognise the special needs of the developing countries; and

(iv) The developing nations themselves should mobilise more of their own energies.

(c) The U. S. Ambassador was expressing the views of his Government.

(d) Dose not arise.

DELAY IN MADRAS REGION PASSPORT OFFICE

771. SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the applicants in the Madras Region Passport Office, have been experiencing long delays; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) Despite a considerable increase in the number of applications for passports, largely due to relaxation of restrictions on travel abroad, every effort is made to grant passports within about a fortnight of the receipt of the applications, in cases where all requirements are met and the prescribed verification certificate is furnished. Delay takes place mainly because the applications are incomplete in some respects and clarifications have to be sought or details obtained or because of time required for the verification of the antecedents of the applicants through the local authorities.

In the Madras region a total of 15,261 applications were considered during the period January-April 1970. 11,478 passports were issued. 798 cases were closed-for various reasons. This left a balance of 2985 cases at the beginning of May which are under disposal.

MEETING OF CHAIRMEN, STATE ELECTRICITY BOARDS IN DELHI

772. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHURY : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Conference of all the Chairmen of State Electricity Boards was recently held in Delhi;