

(b) Where an applicant submits his application accompanied with a verification certificate signed by either;

(i) a Deputy Secretary to the Government of India and above;

(ii) a Joint Secretary and above to a State Government;

(iii) a Sub-Divisional Magistrate and above;

(iv) District Superintendent of Police and above;

(c) Retired Gazetted Government Servants.

(d) Former Members of the Union Parliament (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha) and State Legislatures (Assemblies and Councils).

2. In all other cases where Regional Passport Officers/Passports Officers are otherwise satisfied with genuineness of applicant a passport may be issued where Police and CiD do not send their reports in 4 weeks after despatching personal particulars forms to them.

3. Children below the age of 15 years may be issued passport without police verification.

4. Persons holding normal passports may be issued fresh passports after 10 years of its validity without prior Police/CiD verification.

5. Furthermore, in order to ensure expeditious clearance monitoring

of passports issued and pending is done through weekly progress reports in respect of each passport office.

6. With effect from 16th August, 1990, fresh passports are being issued for a period of ten years at a stretch so that a passport holder need not visit a passport office for renewal after first five years as was the case before August, 1990.

7. With a view to increase productivity of Passport Offices, it has been decided that a passport writer should write 50 passports per day alongwith making entries in passport register. Each official detailed in the indexing section should screen at least 100 applications per day without overtime.

International Declaration on the Rights of Minorities

3520. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the highlights of the last session of the UN Commission on Human rights and the Sub-Commission on Minorities;;

(b) the role played by Indian delegates/experts in the two bodies; and

(c) the present status of the Draft declaration on the rights of Minorities?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV SINGH SOLANKI):

(a) At the last session of the UN Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities a very wide range of issues were considered pertaining to

different aspects of human rights such as enforced or involuntary disappearances, torture, arbitrary detention or imprisonment, racial discrimination, religious intolerance, right to development, right to self determination as well as the question of human rights abuses in a number of countries, including those which revealed a pattern of gross and persistent violation of human rights.

(b) India's delegation took an active part in the work of these bodies and effectively put forward our position on various issues.

(c) A working group of the UN Commission on Human Rights has been preparing the text of "Draft Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities". It is yet to complete its work.

National Research Centre for Mango in Andhra Pradesh

3521. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Research Centre for Mango in Nuzvid area of Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Oil Palm Cultivation

3522. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of

AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil Palm plantation is being taken up on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes drawn up for the purpose;

(c) the increase in production of palm oil as a result thereof during the last one year;

(d) whether the marketing and processing network for palm oil is adequate; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The schemes taken up by the Government of India for Oil Palm development are:-

i. Oil Palm India Ltd. (OPIL) was established in 1977 as a joint venture between Government of Kerala (51%) and Government of India (49%) to develop oil palm cultivation and processing in Kerala. Under this project, about 3300 ha. has been brought under cultivation of Oil Palm in the State.

ii. The Department of Bio-Technology of the Government of India has launched Oil Palm Demonstration Project (ODP) in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra jointly with the concerned State Governments. A total area of about 3100 ha. has