

(c) out of the total number of applications pending as on 1 November, 1985, how many of them are one month, two months and three months old;

(d) reasons for the delay; and

(e) steps taken or proposed to be taken to streamline disposal of Passport applications in time ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B R. BHAGAT) : (a) No Sir. It normally takes 2 to 3 months to grant a Passport

(b) 18,439.

(c) Over 3 months — 1,732

Over 2 months — 3,895

Over 1 month — 5,156

Less than 1 month — 7,656

(d) The agitation on reservation affected the working of the Police authorities who could not attend to the duties involved with the identity verification reports. The work in the Passport Office, Ahmedabad, was also affected as many members of the staff could not attend office during that Period. This led to mounting of arrears.

(e) The State Government has already been addressed to issue suitable instructions to the District Police authorities in Gujarat to expedite Police report on Passport applicants within a maximum period of eight weeks. Due to concerted and energetic action on part of the Passport Office, most arrears have already been liquidated. Only those cases are pending in respect of which Police reports have not come.

Five-Days Week Schedule in States

561. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD :
SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of State Governments which have introduced five-days week;

(b) whether Union Government had suggested or would suggest to those States

which have not yet implemented a five-days week in their respective States to introduce five-days week; and

(c) if so, whether Union Government have received any negative response from any of those States ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) "State Public Services" figure as an item (Item 41) in List-II—State List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, as such, it is for the State Governments to decide whether to introduce 5-day week in the State Governments. The Central Government, however, has sent a copy of instructions about the 5-day week in the Centre for the information of the State Governments. Information about the names of the State Governments which might have introduced 5-day week is not available with the Centre. The Central Government has however received information that Gujarat, Tripura and Orissa have not introduced the 5-day week.

Nuclear Power Plant in Andhra Pradesh

562. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh had demanded the setting up of a nuclear power plant in the State;

(b) whether any expert team had visited certain sites in Andhra Pradesh in this connection; and

(c) if so, the findings of the team and the final decision taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Site Selection Committee has examined the sites in Southern Electricity

Region of which Andhra Pradesh is a constituent state. The report of the Committee is under consideration of Government.

Low Cost T. V. for Every Family

563. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are taking steps to reach low cost TV sets to the lower income families;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to introduce urgent measures to enable every Indian family to own a T. V. set in the near future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) to (c). Government has taken several steps to bring down the price of TV sets. These include :

- (i) Issuing industrial approvals liberally, without any upper limit on capacities so that economically viable level of production could be achieved and competition encouraged;
- (ii) Reducing Government levies like customs duty on imported raw materials/components reduction in excise duty etc;
- (iii) A high power TV coordinations committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Deptt of Electronics is functioning with representation from Indian TV Manufacturers Association, to review and monitor the progress of TV sets;
- (iv) Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation (ET&T), a public sector undertaking under the Department of Electronics under their 'Material Technology Brand Name' (MTB) programme is providing help to industry to

produce quality products at reasonable cost by supplying material procured by them in bulk along with necessary technology.

Special Training to the Members and Officers of Armed Forces

564. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps to introduce special training to the members and officers of the armed forces to handle the various kinds of insurgency in the country particularly in the border and backward areas where the root causes of insurgency are educated unemployment, and lack of economic development; and

(b) if so, since when and with what effect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Training in handling armed insurgency situations was introduced in the late '50s and this has been under constant revision and improvement. The training imparted has helped the security forces to effectively contain insurgency in our border States.

Establishment of Regional Plant Resources Centre Near Bhubneshwar in Orissa

565. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Environment has sanctioned the establishment of some Regional Plant Resource Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such Plant Resources Centres sanctioned by the Department of Environment;

(c) the places identified for the location of such Plant Resources Centres;

(d) whether one such Plant Resources Centre has been sanctioned near Bhubneshwar in Orissa; and