

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Both India and Seychelles adhere to the Declaration adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1971 on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. They are also parties to the Declaration of the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-aligned countries held in Belgrade in July 1978 which, *inter alia* demands the elimination of every manifestation of the military presence in the Indian Ocean conceived in the context of great power rivalries. During the official talks with the Seychelles Foreign Minister, this position was reaffirmed by both sides.

(e) Yes, Sir. During the visit two bilateral agreements were signed—one on Economic and Technical Cooperation and the other on Air Services.

Expenditure on India's Permanent Mission, New York

1643. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the press reports in the 'Blitz' dated the 21st October, 1978 wherein it has been stated that our Permanent Mission in New York costs Rs. 4 crores per year besides non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 6 crores; and

(b) broad details thereof and steps taken or proposed to be taken to cut down the expenditure of Permanent Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

The Press report appearing in the 'Blitz' dated the 21st October is not correct. The expenditure incurred by our Permanent Mission in the year 1977-78 amounted to only Rs. 81.12 lakhs.

Broad details of expenditure incurred during 1977-78 are given below:—

	Rs. in lakhs
Salaries	33.64
Travel Exp.	10.11
Office Exp. (including publicity)	11.43
Rents of Buildings	26.04
TOTAL	81.12

Strict economy in expenditure continues to be exercised. In recent years, for instance, some staff reduction has been carried out despite increase in work. Further reduction in expenditure is a matter which is constantly under review, keeping in mind India's overall interests and the need for the effective functioning of our Mission at the U.N.

Persons entitled for Diplomatic Passports

1644. SHRI S. S. SOMANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the list of persons who are entitled to the issue of diplomatic passports; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) and (b). The general question of grant of diplomatic passports to officials and public dignitaries is under review. However, the present rules already provide for grant of a diplomatic passport where it is considered that a person should have a diplomatic passport where it is considered that a person should have a diplomatic passport either because of the nature of his foreign assignment, or because of the position he holds or has held in the past.