

(b) No specific recommendations were made at the meeting. The Federation however, discussed various problems connected with manning, training and conditions of employment etc., of seafarers.

Increase in Issue of Passports

362. SHRI DHAMANKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of passports issued by the Passport and Emigration Offices in India during 1975 were far in excess of those issued during the previous two years;

(b) the reasons attributable to the increase;

(c) whether any complaints have been received about the persons going abroad for employment or otherwise being exploited or becoming victims of the lures offered to them which are not fulfilled; and

(d) if so, what restrictions or regulations are proposed to impose on the issue of passports so that our citizens get maximum protection when abroad?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been a hundred per cent increase in the issue of passports during 1975 as compared to those issued in the previous two years.

(b) The main reasons as known to the Government are:

- (i) seeking employment opportunities abroad;
- (ii) business purposes;
- (iii) visiting friends and relations; and
- (iv) tourism.

(c) and (d). Some complaints have been received from certain quarters

about malpractices by travel agents and others and wherever possible suitable action, according to law, has been taken.

All precautions are taken under the provisions of the Passport Act, 1967, before passports are issued. As an additional measure unrecognised travel agents are not permitted to deal with the Regional Passport Officers.

Opening of Unani Medical College at Calicut

363. SHRI C. H. MOHAMED KOYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no Unani Medical College in Kerala; and

(b) the steps taken by his Ministry to start a Unani College at Calicut?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE):(a) Yes.

(b) The State Government is responsible for under-graduate education in Unani and other systems of medicine. According to the information available, the Government of Kerala have no programme for the setting up of a Unani Medical College at Calicut.

Accident in Borgaloi Coal Mines in Dibrugarh District

364. SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether three miners were killed in Borgaloi coal mines in Dibrugarh District in Assam in the month of February, 1976 as a result of carelessness on the part of the management;

(b) if so, what steps he has proposed to prevent recurrence of such happenings; and