

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. INS Vikrant was decommissioned on 31st January, 1997 since it had completed its operational life cycle. Proposals for its replacement, either through imports or indigenous construction, are presently before the Government.

(c) to (e) A proposal was received to convert the decommissioned ship into a naval museum. Decision in this regard would depend, *inter alia*, on feasibility of such conversion.

#### Passport Office

214. SHRI K.S. RAYADU :  
DR. M. JAGANNATH :  
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hyderabad Passport Office received a record number of applications for issuance of passports during 1996;

(b) if so, whether according to the reports, Hyderabad had attained No. 1 position in the country among the passport offices with regard to input and output during the year;

(c) if so, whether the Government have also set-up a new passport office at Vishakhapatnam, Rayalaseema and Ananthapur to reduce the rush of people in Hyderabad passport office;

(d) whether in view of the great rush of people, Government propose to set up more passport offices in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the criteria that is being followed in setting up of a passport office and the total number of passport offices/Regional passport offices functioning in the various States, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes Sir. The Passport Office, Hyderabad received 1,90,722 applications during the year 1996.

(b) No Sir. The Regional Passport office, Mumbai received the largest number of 2,22,007 applications in 1996.

(c) A new Passport Office has been opened at Vishakhapatnam and is already functioning. At present, it is not proposed to open new Passport Offices at Rayalaseema and Ananthapur.

(d) and (e) No Sir. Opening of new Passport Offices is decided on certain parameters, such as, area and population of the State, demand of passports, workload in neighboring passport offices, manpower and financial resources. Further,

the Standing Committee of Parliament has recommended for new passport offices be opened only in areas with a minimum input of 50,000 applications for fresh passports in a year.

The statement showing state/union territory-wise break-up of passport offices is attached.

#### Statement

State/Union Territory-wise break-up of Passport Offices as on 19.2.1997

Andhra Pradesh	2
Assam	1
Bihar	1
Delhi	1
Goa	1
Gujarat	1
Jammu & Kashmir	1
Kerala	3
Karnataka	1
Maharashtra	3
Madhya Pradesh	1
Orissa	1
Punjab, Haryana & Chandigarh	2
Rajasthan	1
Tamil Nadu	2
West Bengal	1
U.P.	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>

#### World Bank Loan

215. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :  
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sought World Bank loan of Rs. 749.28 crores for implementation of the revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme for the next five years;

(b) if so, whether the Government have since received the amount from the World Bank;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of disbursement of the amount so far received from the World Bank to each State;