

Health, Manpower, Planning, Production and management, requirement of Nurses in India by the year 2001 A.D. will be 6.64 lakhs. There were 5.12 lakhs Nurses registered with the Indian Nursing Council upto December, 1994.

(b) Under the current Five year Plan the Central Government is implementing a scheme for the strengthening of Nursing services in the country, under which 10 schools of Nursing have been sanctioned during 1994-95 and 1995-96 in different States.

(c) 17 General Nursing Schools are functioning in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Proposals received from different States are considered, keeping in mind overall availability of resources and the commitment of the States to sustain the projects. There are no such proposals under consideration of Central Government in respect of Madhya Pradesh State during 1996-97.

[English]

Food and Drug Adulteration Act

4664. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have appointed a Task Force to suggest modification in Food and Drug Adulteration Act and in its implementation;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations and suggestions made by the Task Force;

(c) whether the Government have accepted these recommendations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The need to amend the prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 had been raised by various Associations including the food processing industry. A Task Force comprising eminent jurists, legal and technical experts was set up and coordinated by the Confederation of Indian Food Trade and Industry. The Task Force reviewed the framework of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Rules thereunder in the context of present day needs. The main recommendations relate to the infrastructure required to implement the food laws, adequacy of equipment in the laboratories; personnel employed for analysis, licensing of vendors, development of sound industrial practices and strengthening of the Prevention of Food Adulteration division. Amendments to the existing laws have also been suggested.

(c) and (d) Government have initiated action to obtain comments of state Government us the report of the Task Force.

[Translation]

Foundation Stone for Bridge

4665. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had laid the foundation stone for the construction of bridge over Chambal river to connect Pinahat in district Agra with Ambah in district Muraina;

(b) if so, the progress made in the construction of bridge till July, 1996, if not, the reasons for not starting the work so far;

(c) the amount provided by the Union Government for construction of the said bridge and the amount spent out of it so far;

(d) the amount provided by the State Government for the construction of the said bridge and whether that amount has been utilised and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the construction of the bridge connecting the two states is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Construction of the project has not started due to non-availability of funds with State Government.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) This will depend upon the priority attached to the work by the State Government.

Hostels in Delhi

4666. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of youth hostels in Delhi and their utility;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct more hostels for students in Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.) : (a) There is one Youth Hostel in Delhi, which is under the control of Youth Hostels Association of India. The hostel promotes youth travel and youth activity programmes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Youth Hostel is a joint venture of the Central and State Governments. State Governments are required to provide fully developed plot of land, free of cost measuring 1.5 to 2 acres for construction of youth hostel. The Government of India takes care of the construction of Youth Hostel. The Department has not received any proposal from Delhi Government for construction of Youth Hostel at Delhi.

[English]

Indians in Yemen

4667. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received on the pathetic conditions of Indians employed in Yemen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government has received a representation from a group of Indians in Yemen.

(b) The representation raises several issues relating to non-payment or irregular payment of salaries, non-adherence to contractual obligations, conditions of work and non-release by the employers.

(c) The Embassy is under instructions to make every effort to redress grievances through all available means, including intervention with the employers and the local authorities.

Passports Pending in RPO, Delhi

4668. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications submitted during February, 1996 in Regional Passport Office, Delhi and the number of applications pending and the reasons for delay;

(b) the maximum time within which police verification is to be completed and the action to be taken in regard to issue of passports in cases of applicants for whom police verification is not done within the time;

(c) the action taken in cases, where Deputy Secretary has certified the character and antecedents of an applicant and police verification also done at permanent place of

residence while it is awaited from the places of temporary residences; and

(d) the number of such applications lying pending for the issue of passports with RPO, Delhi since February 1996?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) (i) The number of passport applications submitted during February, 1996 in Regional Passport Office, Delhi: 11171

(ii) Number of these applications still pending: 819

Delay in issue of passports is normally due to reasons like receipt of negative or incomplete reports from concerned police authorities, discrepancies in documents submitted by the applicants particularly in respect of applications received by post, lack of response from applicants who are asked to submit additional documents.

(b) Passports are normally issued on receipt of clear police verification reports or on expiry of 4 weeks from the date of making such a reference to the police whichever is earlier and on a first come first served basis. The endeavour of a Passport Office is to issue passports in a period of about one month.

(c) On the basis of a Verification Certificate issued by an officer of the rank of Deputy Secretary and above, a short validity passport can be issued even in the absence of receipt of the police verification report.

(d) The number of such applications pending since February 1996 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assistance to Bhutan

4669. SHRI R.B. RAI:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India has been assisting Bhutan financially and materially; and

(b) if so, the details of financial and material assistance rendered to Bhutan by the Government of India during the Eighth Five Year Plan, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Year-wise details of financial and material assistance rendered to Bhutan by the Government of India during the Eighth Five Year Plan of India are as follows:

1992-93	Rs. 53,90,81,789/-
1993-94	Rs. 65,00,78,702/-