

**Bomb Blasts in Delhi**

8167. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the increase in number of bomb blasts in Delhi Government propose to increase the number of Bomb disposal squads in Delhi;

(b) whether Government propose to train more people to meet the reported shortage of Explosives Experts; and

(c) the details of preventive measures taken by Government to make the public alert in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The number of persons to be trained in handling and defusing the device is as per the number of seats for Delhi Police allocated by the National Security Guards

(c) The public is educated through the T.V., Newspapers and Radio to exercise caution and to be on the look out for suspicious objects and to inform the Police, if necessary.

**Helicopters for Delhi Fire Service**

8168. SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY  
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Delhi Fire Service has repeatedly requested for providing helicopter services to evacuate people trapped in

the multi storeyed buildings;

(b) whether the naval helicopters had played a vital role in evacuating hundred of guests and other personnel from the Oberoi Hotel in Bombay which caught fire recently;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to provide helicopters to Fire Service in the Capital where high rise buildings exist; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Delay in Issue of Passports**

8169. SHRI SRIKANTADATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications pending in different Regional Passport Offices at present for more than one month;

(b) the reasons for delay in the issuance of passports to the people, and

(c) the steps taken for early disposal of these passport applications?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K GUJRAL): (a) Statement showing the passport applications pending in various Regional Passport Offices at present for more than one month is given below.

(b) the main reasons for delay in the issue of passports are:

(i) delay in receipt of verification reports.

(ii) increase in number of applica-