

[2nd March, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) if not the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) From time to time some cases of tampering of Indian passports and visas come to the attention of the Government. A technical committee consisting of representatives of Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, India Security Press Nashik, Forensic Science Laboratory (National Capital Territory, Delhi) and National Informatics Centre has been working for a number of years to introduce new security features in the passports as well as visa stickers to make them forgery and tamper proof. This is an ongoing process and several new features such as UV fluorescent security thread, UV fluorescent features on HAUUV (Heat Activated UV) lamination sheet, invisible page numbering on visa pages, micro lettering and die pressability of lamination sheet etc. have already been incorporated in the Indian passports.

Donation of a Hospital to Angola

802. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, as the Prime Minister of India, during his visit to Angola promised to donate a full-fledged hospital to that country; and

(b) what is the present status of the Project?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):
(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The hospital project could not get off the ground because of the unsettled political and security situation in Angola.