

(iii) Bhutan: India signed the Extradition Treaty with Bhutan in 1996. The Treaty is in operation.

Stay of Karmapa Lama on Indian Soil

800. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI D.P. YADAV:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the Government's policy on the stay of Karmapa Lama on Indian soil; and
- (b) what are circumstances under which he came to India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):
(a) and (b) Lama Ugyen Thinley Dorji, recognised by his supporters as the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa, arrived in Dharamsala from Tibet on January 5, 2000. The Chinese side has been requested to share with us details regarding the circumstances of his departure from Tibet for India.

Introduction of Forgery-Proof Passports

801. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA:
SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in view of the wide scale forgery, duplication and counterfeiting of Indian Passports and visas for large scale infiltration of terrorists and other elements into the country through 'legal channels as well as incidence of hijacking of IA aircraft, there is any proposal with Government to develop/introduce passports which are forgery-proof and can not be duplicated and counter-feited without instant and easy detection on lines similar to those in use in countries like Australia and Malaysia; '
- (b) if so, the details of the proposal and the time frame for implementation; and

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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.