

(घ) कराची में भारतीय प्रधान कोसलावास में अमले की संख्या कम हो जाने से भारत की यात्रा पर आने के इच्छुक पाकिस्तानी राष्ट्रियों के बीजा आवेदनों पर तीव्रतापूर्वक कार्रवाई करने का काम गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित हुआ है और इसकी वजह से भारत और पाकिस्तान के लोगों के बीच पारस्परिक संपर्क घट गया है।

**Check on the Bogus Asylum seekers from India by the Belgian Govt.**

2746. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as reported in the Times of India dt. Oct. 15, 1993 that the Belgian Government has launched a crack-down on bogus asylum seekers from India;

(b) whether Government have taken up the matter with India to seek New Delhi's help to crack down organised networks of racketeers operating from India for smuggling human beings as cheap labour;

(c) whether such asylum seekers influx into Belgium has created a lot of racial resentment among Belgians; and

(d) what steps are being taken by India to prevent strain on our bilateral relations with Belgium, damage our reputation on political and human rights and above all to avoid danger to the legal Indian community in Belgium from being mingled up with asylum seekers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA):

(a) Government are aware of reports that Belgian authorities have been conducting checks and tightening regulations relating to asylum seekers from various countries.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government are aware of reports of some racially motivated attacks against asylum seekers in Belgium.

(d) Discussions are to be held with

the Belgian authorities on this subject in Delhi in the near future. The Indian Embassy in Brussels is in regular contact with the Belgian authorities to ensure the well-being of all members of the Indian community.

**Expenditure incurred by Indian High Commissioner**

2747. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian High Commissioner in London has incurred an expenditure of about \$ 1 million to fight a legal battle against a Solicitor and

(b) if so, what are the details and the reasons for incurring such huge expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA):  
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Increase of staff in Regional Passport Office at Hyderabad**

2748. DR. NARREDDY THULASIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to improve the facilities and to increase the staff at Regional Passport Office Hyderabad;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA):  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have allocated 80 additional post to Passport Office Hyderabad. Office facilities at the

Passport Office, Hyderabad are being upgraded on an ongoing basis. Govt. have also decided to identify better alternate premises for the office.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Indian Ambassadors in Laos

2749. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian diplomats consider their posting at Laos a punishment and they generally decline to serve as Indian Ambassadors in Laos;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are of the opinion that the present situation is because of the not so good links between India and Laos; and

(d) if so, whether Govt. propose to establish new economic and political links with Laos; if so, the steps taken by Govt. in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) India and Laos have always enjoyed warm, cordial and friendly relations. Bilateral cooperation between the two countries has continued including through provision of training facilities for various technical courses in India to Laos candidates under ITEC and other programmes, deputation of Indian experts to Laos for carrying out feasibility studies for a number of projects, relief supplies from time to time, of cloth, medicines etc. and promotion of all-round trade and economic relations.

#### Minimum Wages for ICWA Employees

2750. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of ICWA are covered with minimum wages; and

(b) if not, what measures Govt. have taken to bring them under minimum wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) ICWA is an autonomous body and Government have no control over its functioning. Government has no information if the employees of the council are covered with minimum wages.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Comments on Sino-Indian Border Agreement

2751. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the comments made by border dispute specialist Nevil Maxwell in London regarding the agreement made between India and China to maintain peace on Sino-Indian border; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government on these comments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government have not specifically reacted to the remarks made by Mr. Maxwell. However, the agreement has been signed with the objective of ensuring peace and tranquility along the line of actual control in the India-China border areas. It is without prejudice to the respective positions of the two countries on the boundary question. It is the expectation of Government that implementation of the agreement will strengthen the likelihood that peace and