

(e) what remedial measures are being taken by Government for early issue of passports as in the other countries; and

(f) by when the new system for early issue of the passports is likely to come into force ?

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

(a) As on 2-4-93, the total pendency of applications for fresh passports at RPO Chandigarh was 86474 while the pendency over one month was 76369. The figures for Jalandhar are 99305 and 84854, respectively.

(b) The time to issue a passport in the normal course varies between Passport offices depending on the work load.

(c) Government have issued instructions giving Passport Officers the discretion to issue passports on out of turn and priority basis based on documentation submitted by the applicants. Specified categories who can be given out of turn passports have been listed which *inter alia* include exporters, people going abroad for employment and medical cases.

(d) Since the time to issue a passport in the normal course varies between Passport Offices depending on the work load it is possible that in some cases applicants who have been waiting approach for out of turn issue. While in some countries it is possible that passports are issued within one week in others the time taken is longer.

(e) and (f) Government have taken a number of steps to expedite issue of passports which *inter alia* include augmentation of the staff strength; increase in the supply of passport booklets and streamlining procedures to increase productivity and reduce delays.

The exercise to improve the availability of passport services is an ongoing one.

Camps to train Militants in Pakistan

1071. CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in the Statesman dated April 12, 1993, captioned Special ISI camps for militants to the effect that Inter Services Intelligence of Pakistan has set up special camps to train militants at Aliabad, Kalamulla, Nakyal, Gulpur and Khuratta in POK and that camps for training guerillas had been shifted from Chirat to Muzaffarabad and Queta;

(b) if so, that is the Government's information about such training camps; and the number of terrorists including Afghan guerillas under training in these camps; and

(c) what step have been taken by Government to prevent them from sneaking into Indian territory and carry out terrorist activities ?

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

(a) Government have seen press reports to this effect.

(b) Training camps exist both in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. In these camps, apart from Kashmiri militants estimated to number over 18000, Afghan nationals have also been trained.

(c) Government have intensified surveillance and patrolling along the Border/LOC to prevent infiltration. Government remain vigilant about activities detrimental to national security and take all measures to safeguard it.