

Rattan Policy towards India

1591. SHRI VITHALRAO
MADHAVRAO
JADHAV:
SHRI BHUVNESH
CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the official break-up of Soviet Union different independent nations have formed Soviet Commonwealth;

(b) if so, what is their policy towards India; whether previous policies are being continued; and

(c) what is the fate of the scheme in the field of Defence, Finance and other various welfare activities after the break-up of Soviet States who is going to fulfill their earlier commitments towards India and what measures Government propose to take if former Soviet Nations refuse to keep their earlier commitments?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV-SINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. 11 of the Republics of the former USSR have formed the commonwealth of Independent States.

(b) and (c) Member—States of the commonwealth of Independent States have in their Declaration at Head of State level on 21 Dec, 1991 guaranteed, in accordance with their constitutional procedures, the fulfilment of International obligations stemming from the Treaties and Agreements of the former USSR.

Enquiry into malfunctioning of Indian Council of World Affairs

1592. SHRI SAMAR
MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint about alleged malfunctioning and other irregularities in Indian Council of World Affairs, Sapru House, New Delhi has been received by the Government from I.C.W.A. Employees Union, New Delhi;

(b) whether any enquiry has been ordered into the allegations, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether enquiry has been completed; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV-SINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Simplification of Rules for issuing passports

1593. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN
PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have simplified the rules for issue of passport;

(b) if so, the details of said rules and regulations;

(c) whether complaints against non-compliance of said rules and regulation have come; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to avoid violation of rules?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV-SINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The Government have simplified administrative procedures for issue of passports which are given in the Statement. (*See below*).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise,

Statement

Simplification of *Passport procedures*

Following categories of applicants have been exempted from requirement of prior police and CID verifications before issue of passports to them:

(a) All Government servants and Employees of Public Sector Undertakings who alongwith their applications submit No Objection Certificate (NOC) and verification certificate signed by their Head of Department on Official stationery.

(b) Retired Gazetted Government Servants.

(c) Former Members of Union Parliament (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha) and State Legislatures (Assemblies and Councils).

(d) Sitting MPs and MLAs have been exempted from requirement of police verification where they choose to apply for an ordinary passport.

(e) Where an applicant submits his application accompanied with a verification certificate signed by either:

(i) a Deputy Secretary to the Government of India and above:

(ii) a Joint Secretary and above to a State Government:

(iii) a Sub-Divisional Magistrate and above:

(iv) District Superintendent of Police and above:

2. In cases where Regional Passport Officers/Passport Officers are otherwise satisfied with genuineness of applicant, a passport may be issued where police and CID do not send their reports in 4 weeks after despatching personal particulars forms to them.

3. Children below the age of 15 years may be issued passport without waiting for police verification.

4. Persons holding normal passports may be issued fresh passports after 10 years of its validity without waiting for prior police/CID verification.

5. As from 16-8-90, the Indian ordinary passport has been made valid for a period of ten years at a stretch from date of issue.

6. Procedure for recognition of Travel Agents dealing with Passport Offices has been simplified for ex-service men.

7. To increase the productivity of Passport Offices steps are being taken to computerise the Passport Offices.

8. Attestation of photographs of applicants by Gazetted Officers has been dispensed with.

9. The Application Forms completed in all respects will be accepted on counters of Passport Offices, even from persons other than the applicants.

10. Passport Officers have been advised to accept a copy of letter of employment from reputed employer* towards proof of stay of an applicant within jurisdiction of passport offices.

11. The Passport Application Form has been revised and all relevant pieces of information have been cone-piled and appended to each application form so that applicant is able to fill up application form correctly.

12. In case of Gulf evacuees, it has been decided to issue them PoHea Clearance Certificate based on verification certificate issued by the concerned District Superintendent of Police.

13. Restriction on Indian passport holders visiting South Africa (IMS) has been removed with effect from 10th December, 1991.