

[3rd August, 2000)

RAJYA SABHA

Government or Union Territory Administration in India/Identity card issued by the Election Commission of India.

- Emergency Certificate issued by Embassy of India, Kathmandu to Indian nationals in case of emergent conditions.
- Nepalese citizens would be required to be in possession of any one of the following documents while travelling by air between the two countries:
- Valid national passport.
- Photo identity card issued by the Government of Nepal.
- Emergency Certificate issued by the Royal Nepalese Embassy in New Delhi to the Nepalese nationals in case of emergent conditions.

Children up to the age of 10 years will not require the above-mentioned documents for travelling between India and Nepal, by air.

(b) The above decision will be implemented with effect from October 1, 2000.

Finalisation of details on US visit by Prime Minister

1316. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the details of Prime Minister's visit to US during coming months has been finalised;

(b) if so, whether he is contemplating to take up the matter with USA for lifting sanctions as fall out of Pokharan Test before finalising the details of the visit; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Prime Minister will pay an official visit to Washington from 15-17 September 2000 at the invitation of the US President. He will also be visiting New York and San Francisco.

(b) and (c) Government uses every opportunity to convey to the US Government that all unilateral restrictions against India are unjustified and counter-productive and should be completely lifted.

The visit, which is expected to contribute towards establishing a closer and qualitatively new relationship and deepening co-operation between India

and the United States, as visualised by Prime Minister and the US President in March, provides the opportunity to discuss all issues of mutual concern, including that of the remaining US unilateral restrictions on India.

Imposing economic sanctions on Pakistan

† 1317 SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir has suggested to Government to impose economic sanctions on Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on the said suggestion and whether Government is considering to take a decision on this issue; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The Ministry of External Affairs has not received any proposal, concerning Pakistan, from the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) Does not arise.

Media report on atrocities against Christians in India

1318. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the media report published in Washington Post on 3rd July, 2000 regarding certain atrocities against Christians in India;

(b) what are the silent features of this article; .

(c) what action Government have taken at diplomatic level to explain the India's position since the article adversely affects the secular image of India at international level; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the article says that Union Home Minister "sec no reasons for alarms"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen the media report referred to in the Question.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.