

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Yes. The UK has amended its immigration laws and has launched a five tier Points-Based System (PBS) in 2008 to streamline entry of non EU workers to UK. The tiers have different conditions, entitlements and entry clearance checks. The regulations to not apply retrospectively and their likely impact will be on the new migrants.

(c) and (d) The regulations envisaged in the immigration rules are subject to laws enacted by UK, at the discretion of their Government. In our bilateral talks we have pointed out, that the new system should not pose further hurdles for Indian nationals to enter or stay in the UK.

RPO in Hyderabad

1397. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad is not issuing Passports in the prescribed time; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Passport Adalat, which is organized every Wednesday at Hyderabad, is also not responding properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes. The Government is aware that in recent months the issue of passports in the Regional Passport Office Hyderabad has slowed down, resulting in the accumulation of applications. Concerted efforts are being made to clear this pendency as quickly as possible.

(b) Regional Passport Office Hyderabad organizes a Passport Adalat every week for those who have not received passports in 60 days. Efforts are made to clear the pending applications and issue passports immediately to those who attend the Adalats.

Pending applications for passports

1398. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending in each Regional Passport Office (RPO) as on date, State-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to clear the pending applications expeditiously;

(c) the number of passport offices in various States inspected during the last three years and the current year;

(d) the details of lapses/irregularities notified therein, RPO-wise;

(e) whether proposals have been received from States for opening of new passport offices; and