

addition to these assets, Application Software and System Software will be owned by the Government to have the strategic control over the passport system.

(d) All India Passport Employees Association (AIPEA) has conveyed no objection to implementation of the Project with certain observations.

(e) No. The Government will have complete control over the software.

#### **Relations between Iran and China**

†4500. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over the years Iran and China appear to be getting closer in the fields of commerce and politics;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the impact of the relationship of both these countries over India has been assessed; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) According to reports, economic, commercial and political relations between China and Iran have grown in recent years. Iran is currently a major supplier of crude oil and natural gas to China. Iran is also an important destination for Chinese investment and goods. Trade between Iran and China was reported to have reached US\$ 29 billion in 2009. It has been reported that Chinese companies have concluded a number of agreements with their Iranian counterparts in the area of oil and gas, and in the areas of construction and investment.

(c) and (d) Government takes all such steps as are necessary to safeguard the country's interest.

#### **Passport Seva Project**

4501. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The Aims and Objectives of Passport Seva Project;

(b) whether it is a fact that 77 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) are proposed to be set up in the country;

(c) if so, the details of PSKs going to be set up in Andhra Pradesh;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.