

- (b) if so, by when this project is likely to be implemented on a national level?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Yes. The Government has undertaken implementation of Passport Seva Project which envisages issuance of passports to the applicants in 3 working days excluding the day of submission of application where no police verification is required, and in cases which require prior police verification, in 3 working days after receipt of the verification report.

(b) Processing of the passport applications, received through District Passport Cells, under the new System has already begun at the Pilot locations in Bengaluru in March 2010 on trial basis. Project will be launched at national level after successful run of 7 Pilot Passport Seva Kendras under the jurisdiction of passport offices at Bengaluru and Chandigarh.

Issuance of passports on forged documents

4509. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that passports were issued on the basis of forged documents in collusion with touts;
- (b) for how long this malpractice has been in existence;
- (c) the steps proposed to deal with such passports issued already; and
- (d) whether there would be a fool-proof system to avoid this kind of malpractices and other deficiencies?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Yes. Such instances have come to notice from time to time.

(c) Passports issued on the basis of documents which were on verification found to be fake or forged were revoked and in most cases FIRs were registered with police. Copies of documents submitted by the applicants are sent to Police along with personal particulars form for obtaining police verification report for issue of passport. Doubtful documents are also got verified from the issuing authority by the Passport Office.

(d) Efforts are being made at Passport Offices to check veracity of documents through Police and also issuing authorities.

Haj quota for States

4510. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Haj quota is distributed among the States as per the 2001 Census and also based on the concentration of Muslims in a particular State;
- (b) if so, the details of Muslim population in the country, State-wise, as per the 2001 Census;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Muslim populated States have been demanding for increasing the quota for Haj as per the existing population of Muslims in the country;