

Lunch hosted by Joseph Biden

4511. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India was not invited to lunch hosted by Joseph Biden, recently in Washington;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) Mr. Joseph Biden, Vice-President of United States of America is reported to have had an exchange of views over luncheon with some member countries of the Non Aligned Movement (NAM) on the sidelines of the recent Nuclear Security Summit organized by USA in Washington from April 12-13, 2010. It is understood that the countries invited for this lunch were signatories of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Behaviour of staff posted in embassies

4512. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the staff posted in the Indian embassies situated in the foreign country do not behave properly with the people/N.R.I.'s; and
- (b) if so, the action Government proposes to take on the complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) There have been no generalised complaints of improper behaviour by staff posted in Embassies. Officials working in Embassies, whether posted from India or hired locally, are instructed to behave courteously with members of the public and extend them all possible assistance in line with Government rules and procedures.

- (b) If any isolated complaints of improper or unhelpful behaviour by Embassy staff are received, these are looked into with promptness, and appropriate action taken.

Passport offices in Punjab

4513. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of passport offices in Punjab;
- (b) the number of applications for issuing of passports that are received daily in these passport offices since 2007;
- (c) the number of passports issued daily;
- (d) if an applicant is deported from some foreign country, and he applied to get a passport issued from India, in how many days he gets the passport; and
- (e) if the passport is not issued within stipulated time, the action Government proposes to take against the officials who are at fault?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) There are three Passport Offices in Punjab; at Chandigarh, Jalandhar and Amritsar.

(b) The information relating to number of applications received by these Passport Offices since 2007 are as under:—

Passport Office	2007	2008	2009	2010 (January to February)	No. of applications received per day on an average basis of 2010
Chandigarh	283233	295120	254721	37490	937
Jalandhar	223463	198787	132810	19482	487
Amritsar (opened on 28th June, 2008)	—	53306	97386	13004	325

(c) The information relating to number of passports issued by these Passport Offices since 2007 are as under:—

Passport Office	2007	2008	2009	2010 (January to February)	No. of passports received per day on an average basis of 2010
Chandigarh	278411	307760	263400	38249	956
Jalandhar	215150	191409	145295	19001	475
Amritsar (opened on 28th June, 2008)	—	34190	94317	15021	375

(d) Issue of a passport to an applicant who was deported from abroad requires police clearance and reference to the authority which issued an Emergency Certificate. Such cases require additional processing time. A time frame cannot be laid down for such cases.

(e) There is only a prescribed time for issuance of passports, subject to nothing adverse against the applicant found in the system and also receipt of Police Verification report. Despite various difficulties and constraints, the Passport Offices have issued passports keeping pace with increased inflow of applications, as illustrated above.