

Passport to Nationals from Pakistan

1574. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that several Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) have issued passports to Pakistan nationals who have connections with the terrorists;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether the proper verification has not been conducted and passports issued to foreign nationals; and
- (d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to cancel such passports and to ensure strictness in issuing passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR) : (a) and (b) Yes. It has come to the notice of the Government that two Pakistan nationals, namely Shri Saiyyed Aamir Ali and Shri Asad Ali, obtained passports from the Passport Offices in Lucknow and Ghaziabad respectively.

(c) In both cases, the passport applications were complete in all respects and passports were issued on receipt of recommendatory police verification reports. The matter is under investigation by the Police.

(d) Both the passports have already been revoked.

Discussion with Nepalese President

1575. SHRI N. K. SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the President of Nepal has recently visited India and held discussions with leaders on several issues;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has offered major assistance to revive insurgency affected Nepal's sagging economy;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) to what extent the relation between both the countries have been further strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) Yes.

(b) to (e) The President of Nepal, Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, paid a State Visit to India from February 15-18, 2010 at the invitation of our President. Discussions were held on issues of mutual interest and concern and both sides expressed their satisfaction at the state of bilateral relations between the two countries and resolved to work together to further strengthen relations and enhance cooperation. Four Memoranda of Understanding to enhance connectivity, development of infrastructure and on human resource development were signed. A US\$ 250 million line of credit and supplies of some essential food grains to Nepal were announced. The visit of the President of Nepal has further strengthened the unique and close relations that exist between India and Nepal.