

military personnel as well as impart additional training in Indian institution of newly recruited police personnel;

(c) whether both the countries also agreed to institute an annual defence dialogue between them;

(d) if so, the agreements reached and signed; and

(e) the steps that are being taken to implement agreements reached?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (e) President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka visited India from June, 8-11, 2010. A Joint Declaration was issued by both sides. The discussions covered the entire gamut of our relations with Sri Lanka, including security and defence relations. During the visit both sides agreed to promote dialogue on security and defence issues of relevance to their bilateral relationship, and enhance high-level military exchanges and training of military personnel as well as impart additional training in Indian institutions for the newly recruited police personnel. They agreed to institute an annual defence dialogue between the two Governments.

Several bilateral initiatives were also taken. There was a mutual commitment to enhancing connectivity, promote economic integration and closer developmental cooperation. The following MoUs/Agreement/Treaty were signed during the visit:—

(i) Renewal of MoU on Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Small Development Schemes between India and Sri Lanka;

(ii) MoU on Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners;

(iii) Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters;

(iv) MoU on Setting up of a Women's Trade Facilitation Centre and Community Learning Centre at Batticaloa;

(v) Renewal of Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP);

(vi) MoU on Interconnection of Electricity Grids; and

(vii) MoU on Talaimannar-Madhu Railway Line.

People travelling to China

3233. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people from the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir that have travelled to China in the period of January, 2008 to June, 2010; and

(b) the nature of the travelling permit/visa they were given by the Chinese embassy in India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Government does not maintain State-wise data of passengers who visited China. India's consistent position is that there should be no discrimination against visa applicants of Indian nationality on grounds

of domicile and ethnicity. This has been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side. Visas issued on a separate sheet of paper stapled to passports are not considered valid for travel out of the country.

Opening of passport offices in Andhra Pradesh

3234. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of guidelines for setting up of a passport office in a State;
- (b) the details of passport offices in the country, State-wise;
- (c) the details of passport offices opened in the country during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (d) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that in spite of issuing four lakh passports, Andhra Pradesh has only two passport offices; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps the Ministry is taking or proposed to take to set up more and more passport offices in the State?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) The Government has launched the Passport Seva Project, in which 77 Passport Seva Kendras will be established all over the country. Government has currently no plan to open new Passport Offices.

- (b) A Statement-I is enclosed (*See below*).
- (c) A Statement-II is enclosed (*See below*).

(d) and (e) The two Passport Offices in Andhra Pradesh had issued 3,60,681 passports during 2009. Under the Passport Seva Project, there will be a total of seven Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) in Andhra Pradesh (three at Hyderabad, one each at Vijayawada, Nizamabad, Tirupathi and Visakhapatnam). New Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) may be considered for Andhra Pradesh depending on the requirement after setting up of these seven PSKs.

Statement-I

Details of the Passport Offices in the country, State-wise

Sl. No.	Passport office	Name of State/U.T.
1	2	3
1.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Guwahati	Assam, Manipur, Mizoram Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh
4.	Patna	Bihar