

**Illegal sale of Indian Passports in Dubai and Middle East Countries**

359. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA

REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Special Branch of the Bombay Police has discovered illegal sale of Indian Passports in Dubai and Middle East countries;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to prevent the sale of these passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) Government have decided to issue expeditiously passports to all Indian nationals who are residing in the United Arab Emirates, particularly in Dubai, and are at present without valid travel documents. With the issue of these passports, it is anticipated that opportunity for illegal sale of passports will not exist. As regards the illegal sale of passports alleged to have taken place, the facts are being ascertained from the Special Branch of the Bombay Police and appropriate action will be taken.

**Afghan Delegation's visit to India**

360. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Afghan delegation has recently visited India; and

(b) if so, whether any trade or economic cooperation agreement has been concluded with that delegation; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No formal agreement was concluded. However, agreement was reached between the Indian and Afghan

delegations on a wide ranging programme of economic and technical cooperation in various fields. Trade was not discussed. The Press communique issued after the talks is attached.

**Press Communique**

At the invitation of Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister of External Affairs, His Excellency Professor Abdul Kayum, Minister of Mines and Industries, Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, paid an official visit to India from June 20, 1974. Both Ministers led their respective delegations to the Indo-Afghan Joint Commission which met from June 20 to June 24, 1974. Preparatory meetings of senior officials of the two Governments took place from June 17th, 1974.

During his visit, the Afghan Minister of Mines and Industries called on Smt. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister, Shri Fakh-ruddin Ali Ahmed, Minister of Food and Agriculture, Shri C. Subramanian!, Minister of Industrial Development. Shri K. D. Malaviya, Minister of Steel and Mines, Dr. Karan Singh, Minister of Health and Family Planning. Shri D. K. Barooah, Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals and Shri K. C. Pant, Minister of Irrigation and Power. These talks and the discussions of the Joint Commission, were held in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding, reflecting the fraternal relations between the two countries. Keeping in view the mutual interest of both sides, the talks covered a wide range of matters relating to economic, scientific and technical cooperation. It was noted that the Joint Commission meeting was the third in the series. However it was the first to be held after the Republic of Afghanistan was established, and resulted in a more cordial understandings of mutual cooperation between the two countries.

The two Ministers recalled the documents adopted at the Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned countries at Lusaka in 1970 and Algiers in 1973 and in this spirit reviewed the progress and future programmes of cooperation between the two countries, which are both founder members of the Non-aligned movement. The two sides re-emphasised their identity of approach towards international economic issues and especially on

measures for increasing cooperation between non-aligned developing countries and the rapid economic advancement of the developing world.

The Joint Commission reviewed the progress of the recommendations of the first and second meetings and noted with great satisfaction the high level of implementation which had been achieved. It also considered new projects and proposals for future implementation and decided upon a far-reaching and wide-ranging programme. Among the fields to be covered are agriculture, irrigation and power, industry, health, mining, planning and education. Expanded and continued assistance will be provided by India to Afghanistan for the Child Health Institute, the Industrial Estate, various Micro-hydel projects, and the Agricultural Research Programme in Afghanistan. New areas of assistance will be in support of the setting up of an Agricultural Research Institute and a Dairy Farm in the agricultural sector, consultancy and supervisory services for the Hari Rud Project, a feasibility study of the Khwaja Ali Dam and the development of the Child Health Institute in Kabul as a centre of higher training and research, in Afghanistan.

The Afghan delegation at the Joint Commission expressed appreciation of the work the Indian experts in Afghanistan were performing. They also expressed their satisfaction at the training opportunities which had been provided in India in various fields in the past. The Third Joint Commission meeting provides for the deputation to Afghanistan of more experts on both long-term and short-term basis and a greater number of training places in various disciplines such as in health, mining, community development, primary education and municipal administration.

The Joint Commission also noted with satisfaction the increase in mutual contacts and collaboration in various other fields such as education, information and culture.

The Afghan Minister of Mines and Industries expressed on behalf of his delegation the gratitude of the Afghan side for the hospitality and welcome extended to them in India.

The Joint Commission agreed to hold its next meeting in Kabul at mutually convenient dates in 1976.

#### Price-hike for wagons

361. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wagon manufacturers have approached Government for permission to raise the prices of wagons;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what decision has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Railways had worked out an agreement last year in consultation with this Ministry about the prices of wagons after taking into account certain variable factors like cost of steel, cost of conversion etc. The formula does not cover the increase in the prices of brought out components fully. This question has been taken up with the Ministry of Railways.

#### Conference of Major Naval Powers and Littoral countries of the Indian Ocean

362. SHRI N. G. GORAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed a conference of major naval powers and littoral countries of the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, whether any response has been received by Government in this regard; and

(c) by when the proposed conference is to be held and where?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.