

Pakistan at the talks between Foreign Secretaries on February 25, 2010 in New Delhi and June 24, 2010 in Islamabad, during Home Minister's meeting in Islamabad on June 25, 2010 and during Foreign Minister level talks in Islamabad on July 15, 2010. As a result of the persistent efforts of the Government, Pakistan has released 442 Indian Fishermen during the period August 30-September 6, 2010. According to available information, 150 Indian fishermen are still in Pakistani custody. Efforts are being made to secure the release of the remaining Indian fishermen.

The Government of India have always taken up on a priority basis the question of the safety of our fishermen with Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL). Time and again we had intervened and got released and repatriated Indian fishermen to India, along with the boats apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy. We have impressed on the Sri Lankan Navy to act with restraint and for our fishermen to be treated in a humane manner. Keeping in mind the humanitarian and livelihood dimensions of the issue, on 26 October 2008, both sides agreed to put in place practical arrangements to deal with bonafide Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). As part of these practical arrangements, it was decided that there will be no firing on Indian fishermen and vessels and Indian fishing vessels will not tread into sensitive areas designated by GoSL along its coastline. After the October 2008 Understanding, incidents of apprehension have come down significantly.

Passport from Jaipur

†366. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passports presently proposed to be issued from Jaipur passport office, the zone-wise number thereof; and

(b) the details of the steps being taken by Government to make the procedure of issuing passport more simple?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) The Regional Passport Office, Jaipur, has received 1,55,209 passport applications during January to October 2010 and has issued 1,41,050 passports during the same period. Information relating to districts-wise applications received and passports issued during January to October 2010 is given in the Statement (See below).

(b) The Government has taken several steps in the recent years to improve the passport issuance system including introduction of Tatkaal scheme wherein passports are issued on urgent basis on the basis of verification certificate in lieu of Police Verification Report. The Government has

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

embarked on the Passport Seva Project (PSP) to comprehensively transform the passport service delivery system so as to provide passport related services in a timely, transparent, more accessible, reliable manner in a comfortable environment. The PSP has already been launched at four centres in Karnataka and three centres under the Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh. The Government is working towards complete roll out of the Project including in areas covered by Regional Passport Office, Jaipur. Under this project, three Passport Seva Kendras will be set up in Jaipur, Sikar and Jodhpur under the operational control of Regional Passport Office, Jaipur.

Statement

District-wise applications received and issued from 01.01.2010 to 31.10.2010

District	Received	Issued
1	2	3
Ajmer	9581	7895
Alwar	6044	3243
Banswara	3918	3081
Baran	458	350
Barmer	2027	1689
Bharatpur	1942	1625
Bhilwara	2976	2571
Bikaner	4464	3889
Bundi	724	688
Chittor	2318	2156
Churu	8123	8448

1	2	3
Dausa	1033	1005
Dholpur	482	492
Dungarpur	2796	2462
Hanumangarh	2509	2367
Jaisalmer	1434	1517
Jaipur	32567	29764
Jalore	913	936
Jhalawar	833	727
Jhunjhunu	11357	10629
Jodhpur	8879	8367
Kota	4333	3828
Nagaur	11251	10866
Pali	2544	2137
Rajsamand	1193	1046
Sawaimadhopur	1835	1700
Sikar	11269	11827
Sirohi	1148	944
Sriganganagar	4470	4438
Tonk	1804	1624
Udaipur	7787	6676
Karoli	1144	1081
Jaipur-Rural	553	568
Pratapgarh	500	414
GRAND TOTAL :	155209	141050