

new Passport Offices. Under the Project, the Government is setting up 77 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs), out of which 13 would be located in Kerala, three under Passport Office, Thiruvananthapuram, five under Regional Passport Office, Kochi, four under Passport Office, Kozhikode and one under Passport Office, Malappuram. As of now, there is no separate PSK planned for Pathanamthitta district, which will be served by PSK coming up in Kollam.

Visa outsourcing services

360. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competition Appellate Tribunal (compat) has informed Government that there are discriminative practices in awarding visa outsourcing services by various Indian Embassies abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):
(a) No.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Nuclear treaties with foreign countries

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

(a) whether the operations of French and US companies for building nuclear reactors in India are dependent on nuclear cooperation negotiations with Japan;

(b) if so, the status of India's negotiations with Japan in this regard; and

(c) the conditions that Japan is expected/has made for signing with nuclear treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):
(a) No.

(b) and (c) On 25 June, 2010, the Government of Japan announced its decision to commence negotiations with the Government of India on an Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. Three rounds of negotiations have been held in June, 2010, October, 2010 and November, 2010. During Prime Minister's visit to Tokyo on 24-26 October, 2010 for the Annual Summit with Japan, the two Prime Ministers affirmed that cooperation in this sector will open up new opportunities for further developing the India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership.