

(f) by when the transfer of these persons would be done; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):

(a) and (b) A few letters from Hon'ble Members of Parliament have been received by Passport Office, Ghaziabad regarding delay in issuance of passports. Prompt action was taken in all pending cases and passports were issued on completion of requisite formalities including receipt of clear police verification report (PVR). In some cases, where applications were found incomplete, the Passport Office advised the applicants to provide additional documents to process the cases further.

(c) to (d) Landline telephones are attended regularly by the concerned officials during office hours. The Ministry has issued periodic instructions to all Passport Offices to answer all telephone calls promptly and attentively.

(e) and (g) A total of 39 officials have been working for more than 03 years continuously in the Passport office, Ghaziabad. The Ministry has constituted a Transfer Board to consider transfers of employees working with the Central Passport Organization. The Board meets periodically and takes decisions on transfers keeping in view various factors viz. rotational policy, administrative exigencies, request of officials on medical grounds, educational reasons etc.

**Transportation of atomic material through
Karakoram highway**

†2511. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the Karakoram highway is being used clandestinely for transporting atomic material from China to Islamabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that China's activities have increased in the Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) during the last few years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government is aware of the number of Chinese soldiers deployed in Gilgit and Batalik region?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):
(a) and (b) Government is aware of China-Pakistan nuclear cooperation. India's concerns in this regard have been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side. The Chinese side has conveyed that such cooperation in the field of nuclear energy is for civilian use, is consistent with their international obligations, is for peaceful purposes and is subject to IAEA safeguards and supervision.

(c) and (d) Government is aware that China is executing infrastructure projects in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. Government has raised this issue with the Chinese side and has clearly conveyed India's consistent position that Pakistan has been in illegal occupation of parts of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir since 1947. Government has conveyed its concerns to China about their activities in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, and asked them to cease such activities.

(e) Government has seen media reports regarding presence of Chinese troops in Gilgit-Baltistan area. Both the Chinese and the Pakistan sides have denied these media reports. Government remains vigilant to all developments having a bearing on India's national interest and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Minister's visit to Bangladesh

2512. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Minister paid a visit to Bangladesh in the month of July, 2011;
- (b) if so, the details of the points raised by him with his Bangladeshi counterpart during the said visit and the reaction thereto;
- (c) whether the talks between the two leaders were successful; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED):
(a) The External Affairs Minister paid an official visit to Bangladesh from 6-8 July, 2011.

(b) to (d) The External Affairs Minister held extensive discussions with the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh on the entire gamut of bilateral relations including implementation of the Joint Communiqué issued during the visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India, in 2010. During the visit, the two sides signed the Protocol on Exchange of Instruments of Ratification in respect of