

(c) if so, the steps Government has taken to tackle this issue?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ministry of Civil Aviation hosted an International Meeting on 29-30th September, 2011 at New Delhi of non-EU ICAO Council and other non-EU member states in which a Joint Declaration was adopted opposing the EU- ETS.

India thereafter took the lead to co-present a Working Paper (WP), which included the Joint Declaration, in the 194th Council Session of ICAO meeting held on 2nd November, 2011 which was adopted by the ICAO Council with minor editorial changes.

Ombudsman system for rights of passengers

1127. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to set up an ombudsman system to protect right of the passengers travelling by air; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the time by which the Ombudsman in the aviation sector could be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) One of the means of settlement of disputes between consumers and providers in service sector is the institution of ombudsman. A Working Group has been constituted to examine feasibility of setting up Ombudsman for Civil Aviation Sector. It is not possible to indicate any time-frame in this regard at this juncture.

RPOS at Rajkot and Vadodara

1128. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has principally agreed to open and establish two new regional passport offices at Rajkot and Vadodara in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of that proposal as on date;

(c) whether it is a fact that till date no action has been taken in this context by the Ministry to establish the said RPO;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the said RPO would be established at Rajkot and Vadodara?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) :
(a) to (e) Yes. The Ministry, under the Passport Seva Project (PSP), will be setting up 5 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) in the State of Gujarat. Out of 5 PSKs, one each will be set up in Rajkot and Vadodara under the jurisdiction of Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad. The work on establishment of PSKs in Rajkot and Vadodara has been going on at full speed and they are expected to be made operational by January, 2012.

Nuclear bombs with Pakistan

1129. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as compared to India the neighbouring country, Pakistan has more nuclear bombs, most of which are deployed on India-Pakistan border; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) :
(a) and (b) Government has seen media/think-tank reports estimating the size of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal. Government does not comment on the veracity of specific reports about nuclear weapons of various countries. Government continuously monitors all developments having a bearing on national security and takes all necessary steps to safeguard it.

Report on Nuclear Programme of Iran

†1130. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has published a report about Nuclear Programme of Iran;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.