

**Relaxing visa norms for people of Pakistan**

4404. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI :

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that New Delhi may relax visa norms of people of Pakistan to improve the trade relations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the present status thereof compared to the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has approved certain changes in the visa agreement with Pakistan, which covers different visa categories including 'Business Visa.

(b) As the agreement is yet to be signed and as the formal response of the Government of Pakistan is awaited, it is not possible to furnish the details at this stage.

(c) The new Bilateral Visa Agreement proposed to be signed with Pakistan aims to promote people-to-people contacts between India and Pakistan, by easing travel for nationals of either country desiring to visit the other country.

**Steps taken to stop corruption among immigration staff**

4405. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR :

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) what action has been taken by Ministry to stop corruption among immigration staff;
- (b) why our immigration authorities are harassing people who are deported from foreign countries for violation of only visa rules of foreign countries in view of the fact that those people are working very hard to earn money and send this hard earned money to their families; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to adopt sympathetic approach on such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Several measures have been taken to facilitate the travellers and to prevent corruption by the immigration staff. As far as the Immigration Check Posts (ICPs) managed by Bureau of Immigration are concerned,

the Immigration Officers work in an open area and remain under constant view/watch of passengers and staff of other agencies. As such there is hardly any scope for them to indulge in corrupt practice at Immigration Counters. Following measures have been taken to curb corruption in Immigration:-

- i. Entire Immigration Area has been kept under CCTV surveillance round the clock.
- ii. Constant briefing to all officers, including supervisory staff, is given during weekly meetings and training sessions.
- iii. Immigration counters at arrival/departures are so positioned so that constant vigil can be maintained by supervising officers.
- iv. Close supervision is maintained by Inspector/ACP level officers over the immigration area.
- v. Surprise checks are carried out by the FRRO and senior officers including during night/peak hours.
- vi. Feedback forms have been provided at Immigration Counters and placed near exit gates of Immigration.
- vii. Contact details of the FRROs are available in the Website of Bol to register any complaints against the Immigration staff or to provide their suggestions for improvement of the working of the staff.

Indian nationals arriving as deportees from abroad on various grounds are examined for ascertaining the veracity/genuineness of the travel documents used; involvement of agents etc. from security as well as human trafficking angle, *modus operandi* and route adopted by the passengers. This helps in identifying new trends emerging in human trafficking. The focus of examination is on confirming the nationality status of the person and genuineness of the travel document. The persons arriving as deportees for violation of only Visa rules are not examined deeply. Appropriate legal action is taken wherever made out without causing any undue harassment to any passenger by Immigration officials.

#### **Marine police training academy in Gujarat**

4406. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR :  
SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the security personnel trained to work on land can also work in the sea effectively;