

meeting held in New York from 13-17 February 2012, which, *inter alia*, adopted draft provisional rules of procedure for the UN Conference on Arms Trade Treaty to be held in July 2012. India does not engage in any arms race with any country.

Consular post in Saudi Arabia

974. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) the estimated size of the Indian community in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia;
- (b) whether Government proposes to open a Consular post in the province; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) The population of Indian expatriates in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is estimated to be about 2 million. No estimates are available of the size of Indian community in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia.

(b) and (c) No such proposal is under consideration. The consular requirements of the community are being met by the Embassy in Riyadh.

Delay in Tatkal Passports

975. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are repeated delays with regard to tatkal passports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken measures to ensure speedy delivery of promised service;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) The Government had evolved the Tatkal scheme to issue passport to citizens in an expedited manner (after liberalizing the requirement of documents and within the basic parameters of security consideration) to issue a fresh passport within 1-7 days, and re-issue passports within 3 (three) working days from the date of submission. Under the scheme, passport applications are processed on post-police verification basis (where required) on the basis of verification certificate