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14	H.E. Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, President of Pakistan (Official)	April, 8
15	H.E. Dr. Mohamed Waheed, President of Maldives (Official)	May, 11-15
16	H.E. Mr. Fernando Lugo Mendez, President of Paraguay (Official)	May, 23-25
17	H.E. Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and Mrs. Lee Hsien Loong (State)	July, 10-12
18	H.E. Mr. Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic (Transits)	4 & 10 July, 2012
19	H.E. Mr Andrus Ansip, Prime Minister of Estonia (Private)	16-17 July, 2012
20	H.E. Dr. Boni Yayi, President of Republic of Benin (Transit)	17 July, 2012
21	H.E. Mr. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, President of Fiji (Private)	5-8 August, 2012

Corruption in issuance of passport

1254. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an article in the Economic Journal dated 14th July, 2012 where a quantitative analysis has been given about corruption in the matter of issuance of passports in eight major cities of India; and

(b) if so, whether Government would initiate some test penal action against the defaulting functionaries as available in the website "ipaidbribe.com"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes, the attention of the Government has been drawn to an article in the "Economic and Political Weekly" (issue dated 14.07.2012) wherein a

quantitative analysis has been presented on the level of corruption in India, based on a specific issue—identity verification by police officials prior to issuance of a passport.

(b) So far as initiation of penal action against the defaulting Government officials, as available on website "ipaidbribe.com" is concerned, it is pointed out that the website merely provides a forum to those who record their experiences of corruption in India, while maintaining their anonymity. However, whenever a specific complaint is received, action is taken as per Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) guidelines.

In order to improve the functioning of the Passport Offices in India and to make the process corruption free, Ministry undertakes various measures *viz.* inspection of Passport Offices on regular basis to improve procedural efficiency with instructions to take prompt remedial steps on deficiencies. The vigilance inspections concentrate on corruption and malpractice cases in the passport offices, as a result of which disciplinary action is taken against the erring officials. As far as the matter regarding police verification reports is concerned, the State Governments are being requested on regular basis at different levels i.e. Chief Ministers, Chief Secretaries, Director General of Police, for streamlining the police verification process. With the introduction of Passport Seva Project and its integration with police departments, incidences of corruption at the stage of police verification level, are likely to come down, as there would be greater transparency in the entire process.

Compensation released for Indians affected in Gulf War

†1255. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the cases approved by the Compensation Commission of United Nations regarding compensation for the loss suffered by Indians based in Kuwait, in the Gulf war of 1990;

(b) whether all those Indians have received the approved amount and if not, the action taken by Government to get the remaining instalments of the approved amount released to Indians;

(c) the number of Indians whose compensation instalments have been received by Government but the same have not been received by the applicants and the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.