

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has registered its objection against misleading claim of China; and
- (d) if so, the facts thereof and whether Government would reconsider its stand regarding recognising Chinese suzerainty over Tibet in changed scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) China disputes the international boundary between India and China in the Eastern Sector and claims approximately 90,000 square kilometers of Indian territory in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. China illegally refers to this region as “Southern Tibet”. The fact that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India has been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side. India’s position on Tibet has been consistent and is well-known.

Passport applications from Assam

2032. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of applications for passports received by the passport office of Guwahati (Assam) during the year 2012-13, the number of passport issued, the number of applications rejected by the office and the number of applications that are still pending;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the passports applicants are facing problem due to slow process of passport issue;
- (c) the action being taken by Government to make the process of issuing passport easier and on time; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Passport applications received by Passport Office, Guwahati during 2012-13 (April 2012- August 24, 2012) is 19,390. During this period, 24,301 passports were issued (including passport applications of previous year) and 8 applications were rejected after due processing. A total of 20,054 applications are still pending (including applications from previous year) as on today on account of mainly non-receipt of police verification reports.

- (b) Passports to Indian citizens are issued as per the provisions of the

Passports Act 1967 and the Passport Rules 1980 as amended from time to time. Prior to issuing a passport, the Passport Issuing Authority must establish the applicant's citizenship, identity and an absence of criminal record. This requires verification of personal particulars of applicants and background check of their criminal antecedents which are time consuming. This results in delays in issuance of passports.

(c) and (d) In order to speed up issuance of passports and simplify the passport procedure, a Mission Mode Project (MMP) was identified under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) of the Government of India. The MMP on Passports, named Passport Seva Project, aims "to deliver all Passport-related services to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible, reliable manner and in a comfortable environment through streamlined processes and committed, trained and motivated workforce". The Project has been fully implemented by setting up of 77 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) including one in Assam.

Irregular transaction of companies

2033. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) the number of companies whose irregular transactions were found responsible for causing fluctuations in share market during last five years and the details of action taken against them;

(b) the details of nature of irregularity found in transactions of 19 mid-cap share firms on 26th July by Securities and Exchange Board of India and whether a ban was imposed on them; and

(c) if so, the conclusion of investigation made in this regard and the details of mechanism in place to curb such irregularities immediately so that small investors may not have to face losses in share transaction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Fluctuations in markets are not unusual. Market movements are the outcome of perceptions of the investors about the economy, the sector and companies. This perception is influenced by many factors including the macro-economic environment, the growth potential of the economy/companies, corporate performance, domestic and international events and market sentiments. Irregular transactions in individual companies do not normally cause fluctuations in the share market. However, it may cause fluctuations in the shares of the affected company.