

Interior Secretary level talks in March, 2011 and May, 2012 and at Foreign Minister level talks in July, 2010, July, 2011 and September, 2012. The then Home Minister raised the issue during his visit to Islamabad in June, 2010. This was also raised during Home Minister's meeting with the Interior Minister of Pakistan in December, 2012 in New Delhi. An India-Pakistan Judicial Committee has also been set up consisting of retired judges from both countries to ensure humane treatment and expeditious release of prisoners, including fishermen, who have completed their prison term. India-Pakistan Joint Working Group between Indian Coast Guard and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) met at New Delhi on July 12, 2012 for working out a mechanism for release of fishermen and their boats who cross maritime borders inadvertently. High Commission of India, Islamabad, on a continuing basis, monitors the status of Indian prisoners including fishermen in Pakistani jails and takes up the matter with the Government of Pakistan for their early release and return of their boats. Due to Government's consistent efforts, 677 Indian fishermen were released by Pakistan in 2012 and 7 have been released so far in 2013; 103 fishermen were released in 2011 and 454 fishermen in 2010.

#### **Passport application centres in Madhya Pradesh**

1896. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of passport application centres and sub-centres in major towns and cities of Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) whether Government plans to open new such centres and sub-centres to cater to the increasing number of passport seekers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to open three or more additional passport application centres in order to ease the burden on Bhopal Office and also for the benefit of the people of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Under the Passport Seva Project, one Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) in Bhopal has been set up in Madhya Pradesh. It was made operational in May, 2012. Nine District Passport Cells are also functional in Madhya Pradesh in

(i) Balaghat, (ii) Gwalior, (iii) Hoshangabad, (iv) Indore, (v) Jabalpur, (vi) Ratlam, (vii) Rewa, (viii) Sagar and (ix) Ujjain.

(b) to (d) The Government has received a number of requests from representatives of the public and other forums to establish additional Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs)/ Passport Seva Laghu Kendras (PSLKs) in several locations across the country including Indore, Jabalpur and Gwalior in the State of Madhya Pradesh. These proposals have been referred to the National Institute for Smart Government (NISG) for a feasibility study.

#### **Infiltration by Chinese Army in Indian border**

1897. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been incidents of infiltrations by the Chinese Army into the Indian border;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(c) the action taken/being taken by Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government does not perceive the infiltration by the Chinese Army into Demchok area in Ladakh as dangerous to the security of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (e) There is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China. From time to time, on account of differences in the perception of the LAC, situations have arisen on the ground that could have been avoided if we had a common perception of the LAC. Government regularly takes up any transgression along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including border personnel meetings, flag meetings, meetings of Working Mechanism on Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs and diplomatic channels. The two sides have reiterated, on many occasions, their commitment to maintain peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas, pending a final settlement of the Boundary Question. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.