

Muslims' concern while establishing bilateral diplomatic and other relations with that country, if so, the details in this regard;

(b) the stand of Government in the matter; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by Government on the suggestion of Israel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The Government of Israel, in its interactions with the Government of India, has not urged it to ignore the concerns of Indian Muslims while establishing diplomatic and other relations with Israel. India's relations with Israel stand on their own and do not affect our strong, time-tested and historic ties with the Arab world.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Restoring of VIP quota for Haj

†507. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to restore VIP quota for Haj;

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of seats fixed under VIP quota for the year 2013?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No.

(b) and (c) In pursuance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated July 23, 2012, the number of seats to be allotted to the nominees recommended by dignitaries is to be limited to the following:

Hon'ble President of India	100 seats
Hon'ble Vice-President	75 seats
Hon'ble Prime Minister	75 seats
Hon'ble External Affairs Minister	50 seats
Hajj Committee of India	200 seats

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated April 16, 2013 has reiterated, confirmed and directed the Government to strictly follow the directions given earlier vide its order dated July 23, 2012. Government has been implementing the said directions.

Visa/passport papers stolen in foreign countries

508. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many visa and passport papers of India were stolen in foreign countries, recently;
- (b) if so, whether Government has inquired into the matter;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether this a major security breach, and in what manner Government plans to contain the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) Recently, 23 passports were reported missing from the Consulate General of India, New York. Immediate measures like change of all locks in the Consular, Passport & Visa Division, rotation of local staff at regular intervals, random checking of consular staff when leaving the office have been taken. CCTV cameras have been installed in the Consular, Passport and Visa Section. In addition, all authorities concerned in India were informed. Suitable action has been taken by the Indian authorities to prevent misuse of stolen passports.

No instance of loss of visa stickers has been reported in the recent past.

Violation of borders by China

†509. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether China has violated the border again in Ladakh recently, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that China is increasing its military strength and it has created infrastructure not only in Ladakh but also in various bordering areas of the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.