

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.