

visit to China. Agreements of economic nature include the 'Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in Roads and Road Transportation' and 'Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Power, Government of the Republic of India and The National Energy Administration, Government of the People's Republic of China on Setting Up Chinese Power Equipment Service Centres in India.' 5 agreements were signed during Prime Minister's visit to Russia including 'Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Energy Efficiency of the Republic of India and Federal State Budget Organisation "Russian Energy Agency" of the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation in the Field of Energy Efficiency' and 'Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Standardization and Conformity Assessment between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) [Republic of India] and Federal Agency on Technical Regulation and Metrology (GOST-R) [Russian Federation]'.

Issuing of identity certificate for passport

†64. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Member of Parliament is empowered to issue identity certificate to any person for passport purpose, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether an Under Secretary in Central or State Government is empowered to issue such a certificate; and
- (c) if so, whether their posts are considered superior to Members of Parliament, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No. Identity Certificate (IC) is akin to a '*No Objection Certificate*' required to be submitted by any Passport applicant who is working in a Government Office/Public Sector Undertaking/Statutory body. This is issued by the Administrative Office/Controlling Authority of the employee where he/she is working. IC is issued by the Controlling authority after verifying the service record and antecedents of the employee.

(b) No. Government of India has not fixed any specific post/level or officer for issuing the IC. It is issued by the Controlling authority designated by the concerned Government Department.

(c) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.