

Walk-in facility has also been allowed to citizens having Application Registration Number (ARN) to enable them to apply for Tatkaal service, issue of Police Clearance Certificate (PCC), deletion of Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) status, inclusion of name of spouse in the passport and issue of new booklets where pages have been exhausted. Senior citizens above 60 years, minors below 15 years whose parents -hold -valid passports, differently-abled persons, Central/State Government employees and their spouse/dependent minor children having ARN have also been permitted walk-in facility.

Amenities in every PSK include photocopying, food and beverage, public phone booth, baby care room, newspapers and television in a comfortable air-conditioned environment while the applicants obtain passport services.

The Project is supported by state-of-the-art technology infrastructure which enables end-to-end passport services to be delivered with enhanced security. A complex algorithm has been built in to highlight cases of possible duplication and suppression of information by the applicant.

The PSP system also has the potential of integration with other e-governance initiatives of the Government.

Security has been given special attention in the Project. The accountability of the employees as well as the Service Provider's personnel, in respect of any task performed in the PSP system, is ensured through three-level authentication comprising Biometric log-in, User ID/Password and Digital Signatures.

Passport Offices conduct Passport Melas at PSKs on weekends from time-to-time for meeting high demand of passports. Passport Adalats, on need basis, are also conducted by Passport Offices to redress passport service grievances by dealing with citizens directly.

As police verification of personal particulars and antecedents of applicants is critical to Passport issuance, Passport Offices keep in touch with Police to expedite Police Verification reports.

A Handbook of Standard Documents and Procedures for PSK officials has been circulated to all the Passport Offices for speedy processing of passport applications.

A Productivity Linked Incentive Scheme has been implemented aimed at increasing productivity of the Central Passport Organisation officials.

Issue of South China Sea

3116. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has solved the issue of South China Sea, if so, the details thereof; and

- (b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) India is not a party to the dispute in the South China Sea.

- (b) Does not arise.

Building of bridges by ITEC

3117. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme has completed its eventful 50 years in building bridges with more than 160 developing countries across the world;

(b) whether this flagship programme launched in 1964 has so far provided training and motivation to a large number of participants from third world countries in skill development, entrepreneurship, IT and Food Security projects; and

(c) whether Government would like to set up other centres like the Barefoot College successfully running at Tilonia, Rajasthan as a mother training centre for rural and community development volunteers from all over the third world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme is completing its 50 years on 15 September, 2014. ITEC has helped in building close cooperation with developing partner countries across the world. Currently, there are 161 countries participating under various capacity building programmes.

(b) Yes, a large number of participants from developing countries have attended ITEC training programmes in India in diverse areas. ITEC has helped in capacity building, skill development, transfer of technology and sharing of experiences with the partner countries.

- (c) There is currently no such proposal under consideration.

Killing of Tamils in Sri Lanka

3118. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any action for the killing of ethnic Tamil civilians in Sri Lanka in accordance with the Resolution passed by the Tamil Nadu State Assembly in 2011 ;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to respect the sentiments of people of Tamil Nadu and the United Nations response in this issue;