

- (vi) 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.
- (vii) Inspections of PSKs and Passport Offices are conducted from time to time to take remedial measures.
- (d) The Government is aware that in some cases, there is delay in issuance of passport. The reasons for delay normally are as under:
 - (i) Delays in receipt of police verification reports within the stipulated time of 21 days;
 - (ii) Receipt of incomplete police reports;
 - (iii) Increase in demand for passport to the tune of 15% in a year; and
 - (iv) Shortage of manpower in the Central Passport Organization, to deal with the increasing demand for services and for meeting the 'desired service levels'.

Agreement between China and India on setting up of industrial parks

950. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India and China are entering into bilateral agreement on setting up of Industrial Parks to help each other; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes. The Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Industrial Parks in India between Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China was signed by Foreign Secretary Smt. Sujatha Singh and Ms. Gao Yan, Vice Minister, Ministry of Commerce of China on 30th June, 2014 during the official visit of Vice President of India to China. This MoU provides an enabling framework for Chinese companies to invest in industrial parks and zones in India under the prevailing policies. China can explore the possibility of setting up or participating in the establishment of industrial parks in India.