

(c) Indian citizens residing in India and abroad and holding handwritten passports as well as 20-year passports with validity beyond the 24th November, 2015 have been advised through public notices and media campaign to apply for re-issue of their passports well before the deadline in order to avoid any inconvenience in obtaining foreign visa or international travel.

Details asked while applying for child's passport

1301. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has seen certain reports that unwedded mothers are being asked to explain the manner they conceived, even specify if they were raped, while applying for their child's passport;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor for such insensitivity; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [(GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH)]: (a) to (c) Yes. The Government has seen some reports in a section of Press based on unsubstantiated and erroneous facts. In this connection, it is clarified that in cases of child having single parent while applying for a passport, the single parent is required to submit an affidavit. In the affidavit the single parent is to declare that (i) he/she is the father/mother of the child; (ii) he/she is the single parent of the child applying for the passport; and (iii) the child is exclusively under his/her care and custody. Such provisions have been made to safeguard the interest of the child. As per the extant provisions, the name of the other parent is left blank and not to be entered in the passport of the child without the written consent of the other parent.

Nepalese farmer's encroachment of Indian land

†1302. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that border of Udampur (Uttarakhand) is adjacent to the border of Nepal;

(b) if so, whether they are also aware that the citizens of Nepal are farming in no-mans areas of India by grabbing it; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.