

Chinese intrusion in Indian territory

1643. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether China has intruded again in Indian territory recently near Chushul area of Ladakh, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has taken up the matter of intrusion in Chushul area with Chinese Government; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the response therefrom, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH): (a) to (c) There is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China. From time to time, on account of differences in the perception of the LAC, situations have arisen on the ground that could have been avoided if we had a common perception of the LAC. Government regularly takes up any transgression along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including border personnel meetings, flag meetings, meetings of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India- China Border Affairs and diplomatic channels. The two sides agree that peace and tranquility on the border is the basis for the continued expansion of India-China relations.

Setting up of Passport Seva Camps

1644. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any plan to set up 250 Passport Seva Kendra camps in 2015, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the proposed funds allocated towards the same; and
- (c) the steps taken to ensure outreach towards remote and rural areas of the country, and the expected number of districts targeted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH) : (a) The Government has drawn up a tentative plan to organize about 250 Passport Seva Camps at different locations across the country in 2015. The details for acceptance of Passport Applications at the Camps are as under:-

- (i) The date and venue of the Camp is announced by the respective Passport Officer in the print media. The information is also posted on the Passport Seva Portal (www.passportindia.gov.in).
- (ii) Applicants are required to fill online the passport application, make payment and take appointment for personal appearance at the Camp.
- (iii) Other process and procedure are the same as in the case of a visit to a Passport Seva Kendra.

(b) The capital expenditure of ₹ 1.1 crore approximately and operational cost of about ₹ one lakh per Camp is met from the sanctioned budget grant of the Ministry of External Affairs.

(c) All the districts in the country are covered by the existing network of 77 Passport Seva Kendras functioning as extended arms of the 37 Passport Offices. The Passport Seva Camps are aimed at providing passport services closer home to citizens. These are organized mostly at different district headquarters covering nearby districts which include remote and rural areas as well.

China joining SAARC

1645. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has of late shown its eagerness to join South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to support the Chinese Governments move and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal from China to join the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) as a Member. China is one of the nine Observers in SAARC.