

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has received applications under Right to Information (RTI) Act on various aspects associated with textbooks, including history textbooks from time to time. Some of these applications sought information regarding sources of assertions in the history books of NCERT. NCERT have responded to these applications based on information available with it.

Passport Seva Kendra in Rajasthan

2098. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) in Rajasthan have been modernized completely, if so, the status thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to open new Passport Seva Kendra in Rajasthan; and

(c) the total number of Passport Seva Kendra in Rajasthan and the efforts being made by Government for modernization of these Kendra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) The Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) in Rajasthan are modernized completely like other Passport Seva Kendras functioning in the country. At present 83 PSKs are working across the country out of which, three (3) PSKs are working in Rajasthan at Jaipur, Jodhpur and Sikar. In view of increased demand for passports, the Ministry is considering to further increase the number of PSKs in Rajasthan.

Compensation to Indian victim of Pan Am 73 flight

2099. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has raised the issue of compensation for the Indians on the hijacked Pan Am 73 flight with their American counterparts during US President's visit to India in January, 2015 or during Prime Minister's visit to the US in September, 2015;

(b) if so, the outcomes regarding payment of compensation to the Indian victims or their relatives; and

(c) the legal impediments that the United States has cited for their inability to pay the compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) The Government of India has repeatedly raised the issue of compensation to Indian victims of Pan Am 73 flight with the Government of the United States.

As per the US Government, Libya Claims Resolution Act, 2008 (LCRA) had authorised the US Government to receive fair compensation for claims of US nationals in wrongful death and physical injury cases that were pending in US Courts on the date of enactment of LCRA. The US Government has maintained that claimant shall be a continuous US national at the time of the incident (not after) to be eligible for an award of compensation, and that it has been a well-established principle of international claims practice. The US Government has added that innumerable international, domestic, and mixed claims arbitral tribunals have followed and applied the rule of continuous nationality, and it has been the consistent policy and practice of the US Government to decline to espouse claims which have not been continuously owned by the US nationals from the date of injury.

As regards the payment of compensation to foreign nationals in the Pan Am 103 case, the US Government has indicated that payments to family members of foreign national victims of the Pan Am 103 bombing were specifically provided for in the LCRA and were made in connection with satisfying the direct settlement of US litigation between those family members and Libya, to implement the UN Security Council's requirement that Libya "pays appropriate compensation" to the families of those victims. The US Government has noted that they have not deviated from the US nationality rule in the context of the Libya claims program, in setting aside these direct settlement payments (which was applicable only in case of Pan Am 103).

Stopping help to Sri Lankan Tamils

2100. DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has stopped further help to Sri Lanka's North East Provinces and Tamil speaking Muslims resettlement projects started from 2009 onwards to the tune of 1.5 billion U.S.D.; and

(b) if not, the new areas of co-operation contemplated in this aspect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) No.

(b) Government has been taking further the implementation of development projects in priority areas such as public health, education, agricultural revival, vocational training,