

(b) if so, details thereof and reasons therefor, and the steps taken/being taken to correct the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) Presently, this Chair is vacant and selection is under process.

(b) As per existing practice, the Council sought nominations for Nelson Mandela Chair in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) from our Missions in Africa for the academic year 2015-16. Nominations are received both in ICCR and JNU. Those received in ICCR are forwarded to JNU, which is responsible for selecting the candidate. JNU had selected Prof. Percyslage Chigora from Midland State University, Zimbabwe for the said Chair for academic year 2015-16. However, he could not join due to non favourable leave conditions in his parent University, reason why the Chair was vacant. For the academic year 2016-17, selection of the Chair is already in process.

Passport offices set up in country

†1197. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport offices set-up in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the criteria fixed for setting up new regional passport offices in the country; and

(c) the details of the action plan for the modernization and expansion of the existing passport offices in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) There are 37 Passport Offices and 89 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) working as extended arms of the Passport Offices across the country. A list of Passport Offices along with PSKs is given in the Statement (*See below*). 12 of these Passport Seva Kendras were set up during the last three years at the following places:

Sl. No.	Location of PSK	State/UT
1.	Karimnagar	Telangana
2.	Shillong	Meghalaya
3.	Imphal	Manipur
4.	Gangtok	Sikkim

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl. No.	Location of PSK	State/UT
5.	Kalaburagi	Karnataka
6.	Aizawl	Mizoram
7.	Agartala	Tripura
8.	Dimapur	Nagaland
9.	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh
10.	Puducherry	Puducherry
11.	Darbhanga	Bihar
12.	Bhimavaram	Andhra Pradesh

(b) It has been the endeavour of the Ministry to have Passport Offices and Kendras in most of the States/UTs. Opening of a Passport Office depends on various factors, including expected number of passport applications and distance from the existing Passport Office.

(c) The Passport Offices in the country are fully modernised. After the nation-wide rollout of the Passport Seva Project, the Passport Offices and the Passport Seva Kendras are working with best amenities and state-of-the-art architecture for passport issuance. Approval has been accorded for opening of a Passport Office at Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh) and 7 PSKs at Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Udaipur (Rajasthan), Siliguri (West Bengal), Solapur (Maharashtra), Leh (Jammu and Kashmir), Kharagpur (West Bengal) and Branch Secretariat Kolkata (West Bengal).

Statement

List of Passport Offices, Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) and Passport Seva Laghu Kendras (PSLKs)

Sl. No.	Name of Passport Office	Number of PSKs/PSLKs under Passport Office	Name of PSKs/PSLKs*
1	2	3	4
1.	Vishakhapatnam	3	Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Bheemavaram*
2.	Guwahati	6	Guwahati, Itanagar*, Imphal*, Aizawl*, Shillong*, Dimapur*
3.	Patna	2	Patna, Darbhanga*

1	2	3	4
4.	Chandigarh	3	Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Ambala
5.	Raipur	1	Raipur
6.	Delhi	4	Bhikaji Cama Place, Shalimar Place, Herald House, Gurgaon
7.	Panaji	1	Panaji
8.	Ahmedabad	4	Arya Arcade, Sheetal Varsal Mall, Vadodara, Rajkot
9.	Surat	1	Surat
10.	Shimla	1	Shimla
11.	Jammu	1	Jammu
12.	Srinagar	1	Srinagar
13.	Ranchi	1	Ranchi
14.	Bangalore	5	Lal Baagh, Sai Arcade, Hubli, Mangalore, Kalaburgi*
15.	Thiruvananthapuram	3	Thiruvananthapuram, Thiruvananthapuram (Rural), Kollam
16.	Cochin	5	Cochin, Ernakulam Rural, Alapuzha, Kottayam, Thrissur
17.	Kozhikode	4	Vadagara, West Hill, Salisons Enclave, Payanur
18.	Malappuram	1	Malappuram
19.	Bhopal	1	Bhopal
20.	Mumbai	3	Malad, Andheri, Lower Parel
21.	Pune	1	Pune
22.	Thane	2	Thane, Nasik
23.	Nagpur	1	Nagpur
24.	Bhubaneswar	1	Bhubaneswar
25.	Amritsar	1	Amritsar
26.	Jalandhar	3	Eminent Mall, Aman Plaza, Hoshiarpur
27.	Jaipur	3	Jaipur, Jodhpur, Sikar
28.	Kolkata	4	Kolkata, Behrampore, Gangtok*, Agartala*

1	2	3	4
29.	Chennai	4	Saligramam, Naveen Presidium, Tambaram, Puducherry*
30.	Trichy	2	Trichy, Thanjavur
31.	Madurai	2	Madurai, Tirunelveli
32.	Coimbatore	1	Coimbatore
33.	Hyderabad	6	Begumpet, Ameerpet, Towlichowki, Karimnagar*, Nizamabad, Tirupati
34.	Lucknow	4	Lucknow, Varanasi, Kanpur, Gorakhpur
35.	Bareilly	1	Bareilly
36.	Ghaziabad	1	Ghaziabad
37.	Dehradun	1	Dehradun
TOTAL		89	

Meeting on Nepal-India relations

1198. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether meeting of Eminent Persons Group on Nepal-India Relations (EPG-NIR) was held recently at Kathmandu, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the names of members of the Group from both the countries;

(c) whether the Group made any recommendation or report to improve bilateral relations between the two countries; and

(d) the efforts made to resolve the pending issues like Madhesis joining the mainstream, power projects, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) and (b) The first meeting of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on Nepal-India Relations was held on 4-5 July 2016 in Kathmandu. The EPG comprises eight members with each country nominating four members. The Indian members are Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Shri Mahendra Lama, Shri Jayant Prasad and Shri B. C. Upreti. The Nepalese members are Shri Bhekh Bahadur Thapa, Shri Rajan Bhattarai, Shri Surya Nath Upadhyay and Shri Nilambar Acharya.