

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) According to a press release issued by the US Attorney's Office, Southern District of Mississippi, on 19 May 2016, the US authorities have charged 19 persons, including 14 Indian nationals, for submitting fraudulent claims to the US Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) for the purpose of obtaining long-term visas. These persons made fraudulent claims to seek U-visa, which is given to the victims of certain crimes, or by entering into marriages with US citizens solely for the purpose of obtaining immigration status that they would otherwise not be entitled to.

(b) This case is currently *sub-judice*. The Government has constantly emphasized to the US Government on all such matters that due process must be followed and there should be no harassment and injustice.

Fake passport rackets in Delhi

1202. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fake passport racket is flourishing in Delhi and other States; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken to curb the racket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) and (b) Very few cases of fake passports have come to the notice of the Ministry. The involvement of any racket, however, has not been identified in the recent past.

Launching of earth observation satellite

1203. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched earth observation satellite, if so, the details thereof, and the objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): Yes, Sir. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched an earth observation satellite namely CARTOSAT-2 series satellite on board Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle 'PSLV-C34' on June 22, 2016 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. The CARTOSAT-2 series of satellite, weighing 727 kg, is placed in a sun synchronous orbit with a designed mission life of 5 years. The main objective of this satellite is to provide high resolution images of earth's surface at sub-meter resolution (Black and White image) and at 2 meter resolution (4-band coloured image).