scheme, passport applications are received at district headquarters in the District Passport Cells (DPCs) set up in the office of District Magistrate or Superintendent of Police as per discretion/decision of the State Government. The DPCs receive the passport applications and after scrutinizing them and having the police verification in respect of applicant carried out, forward the applications to the concerned passport office for further processing and issuance of passports.

Threats to Pakistan High Commission in India

1689. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Pakistan High Commission in India is under threat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether other foreign embassies/High Commissions are also under threat; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government for their protection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Pakistan High Commission, *vide* its Note Verbale dated July 19, 2004, had conveyed that they have received a worldwide alert advice from their Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in view of enhanced threat perception following action by Pakistan against some terrorist groups. They had requested that appropriate steps may be taken to upgrade security alertness around their Mission and personnel.

(c) and (d) There is a regular exchange of information on security between foreign embassies/High Commissions located in India and this Ministry/security agencies. Whenever there is an assessment based on general or specific information of enhanced security threat *vis-a-vis* a particular target, adequate security cover, including static security, is provided. Government's monitoring mechanism continuously assesses the security scenario, issues security alerts and upgrades security cover depending on the threat perception. Embassies/High Commissions concerned are also advised to take preventive steps and other measures commensurate with the level of threat perception.