

Losses to Delhi-Lahore Bus Service

†1686. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether D.T.C. bus from Delhi to Lahore is running almost unoccupied due to non-issuance of visa by Pakistani Embassy in Delhi since two months and as a result D.T.C. is incurring heavy loss;

(b) whereas the bus from Lahore to Delhi is running with its full strength of passengers as visa is easily issued by Indian Embassy at Lahore;

(c) if so, whether Government have expressed its concern to Pakistan Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the Pakistan Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The Delhi-Lahore bus service is quite popular and is operating successfully on both sides.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Extradition of former Chairman of Union Carbide

†1687. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have issued notice on 6th May to Government of United States of America for repatriation of former Chairman of Union Carbide, Warren Anderson, who is also a prime accused responsible for Bhopal Gas Tragedy of 1984;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reply of the Government of United States of America in this regard;

(c) other steps being taken by Government for repatriation of Warren Anderson besides its paper work; and

(d) by when the said accused is likely to be repatriated?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[19 August, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The formal request for the extradition of Warren Anderson was sent to the United States Government in May, 2003 to stand trial in the criminal case concerning the Bhopal Gas Leak Tragedy. In June, 2004, the United States Government informed that it has examined the request and concluded that the request cannot be executed because it does not meet the requirements of certain provisions of the Extradition Treaty between India and the United States.

(c) and (d) The US response has been conveyed to the concerned investigating agency.

Pendency of Passports

1688. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government would consider to reduce the pendency experienced in processing passport applications;

(b) the number of applications pending in passport offices of Kerala with office-wise details; and

(c) whether Government would also consider to strengthen the district-wise facilities for the speedy disposal of passport applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes. It has always been the endeavour of the Government to reduce pendencies in processing the passport applications.

(b) The number of applications pending in the three passport offices in Kerala as on 31st July, 2004 is as given below:

Passport Office	Number of applications pending
Cochin	4,898
Kozhikode	29,954
Trivandrum	3,654

(c) With a view to taking the passport services closer to the doorsteps of the applicants, the Government introduced the Decentralisation Scheme for receipt of passport applications to district level. Under this