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Trinidad & Tobago 1991	Construction of Cultural Centre	Financial approval obtained in May 2003. Revised drawings being finalised by local architect.
Warsaw 1988	Construction of Chancery and Residences	Contract signed with M/s Sachdeva Eggleston as Architects. Financial proposal being processed in consultation with competent authorities.

### **Joint working group to counter terrorism**

950. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Tajikistan have agreed to set up a joint working group to counter terrorism; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) India and Tajikistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding on January 30, 2003 for setting up a Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism. The Agreement provides a framework for counter terrorism cooperation between the two countries including, *inter-alia*, by way of sharing of information and experience, cooperation in preventing terrorist financing, drug trafficking and organised crime as also through capacity building.

### **Passports issued by RPO, Bangalore**

951. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passports newly issued in Karnataka by the Passport Office, Bangalore from January to December, 2003;

(b) the number of passport applications pending, till date, in the above office;

(c) whether Government are aware that a large number of people simply take passports but not utilising it; and