

on the ground that could have been avoided if we had a common perception of the LAC. Government regularly takes up any transgression along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including border personnel meetings, flag meetings, meetings of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India- China Border Affairs and diplomatic channels. The two sides agree that peace and tranquility on the border is the basis for the continued expansion of India-China relations.

#### **Indian passport for Tibetans**

1296. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has issued any orders that Tibetans who are seeking Indian Passport would need to leave their settlements and benefits from Central Tibetan Administration; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) Yes. Tibetan refugees, who are seeking Indian passports on the basis of being Indian citizens by birth under the relevant regulations of Indian Citizenship Act, 1955, are not entitled to the benefits which are exclusively for Tibetan refugees.

#### **Permission for Mansarovar Yatra**

1297. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK:

SHRI SANJIV KUMAR:

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has not given permission for the Indian Contingent to visit Kailash Manasarovar through Nathu La Pass;

(b) if so, whether Chinese authorities have given any reasons for the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has found the same to be genuine; and

(d) what steps Government proposes to take to resolve the stalemate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra *via* the Nathu La route has been deferred this year after the Chinese Government cited unfavourable conditions to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the Yatra on this route.

(d) The Government of India is engaged with the Chinese Government on this matter.

#### **Change of surname in passports after marriage**

1298. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to permit ladies to use their old surname in passports even if they get married; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) The Passports Rules leave the choice to a lady applicant to obtain passport in her old surname even if she gets married.

#### **Outcome of PM's visit to Israel**

1299. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outcome of the Prime Minister's recent visit to Israel; and

(b) its impact on India's relations with Palestine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) During the visit of PM to Israel from 4-6 July, 2017, the bilateral relations were upgraded to Strategic level with a focussed strategic partnership in Agriculture and Water. A total of five MoUs, a Work Programme and a Plan of Cooperation covering the areas of Water, Agriculture, Space and Science and Technology were signed during the visit. PM's visit to Israel helped broad base the relationship and will facilitate intensive technical and R&D collaboration essential for the success of our flagship initiatives like 'Make in India' 'Swachh Bharat' 'Digital