

which held its first meeting in New Delhi on 18-19 December 2017. Recently, the United States has designated Syed Salahuddin, the leader of Hizbul Mujahideen, as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist and Hizbul Mujahideen as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in June 2017 and August 2017 respectively.

Choice of regional languages in passports

1927. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passports would be printed both in English and Hindi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether people from States where Hindi is not spoken would have a choice of English and their regional languages, in their passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) Yes. The pre-printed portion of the passport is already in Hindi and English languages. At present, the personal details of the applicant are printed in English language only. The Government has now decided to print personal details on passports in both Hindi and English languages.

(b) The reasons for printing passport in Hindi and English arise from the fact that Hindi is the official language of India.

(c) The English version is available for the people of those states where Hindi is not spoken. The facility of passport printing in other languages is not available.

Impact of revised Nitaqat Scheme on Indian migrants

1928. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Saudi Arabia has revised the Nitaqat Scheme from September this year and it impacts Indian migrants a lot;

(b) the details of emigration clearances given for Saudi Arabia during the last three years, and the current year, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that there were only 1.65 lakh emigration clearances for Saudi Arabia during 2016 which is less than 50 per cent as compared to previous year; and

(d) the details of people, skilled and unskilled, going to Saudi Arabia from India during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been following the policy of Nitaqat (Saudization) since 2011, which broadly aims at increasing the employment opportunities of the Saudi citizens both in the public and private sectors, by reducing dependence on the expatriate workers. These efforts of the Saudi side have of late gained momentum after the ongoing slowdown of the economy due to continued low crude oil prices. The policy is not specifically directed at Indian nationals and the Saudi Government is exercising its prerogative and sovereign right by following this policy uniformly in respect of all foreign nationalities.

The Government has no information to suggest that there are any wide spread job losses due to the Nitaqat programme. As per the latest figures provided by the Saudi Government, the Indian community in the Kingdom has increased from 3 million in February, 2017 to 3.25 million in September, 2017. The job losses that occurred last year were mainly due to some companies facing economic problems and losses are not attributable to Nitaqat.

(b) and (c) Emigration Clearances issued in 2016 witnessed a decline of around 45% over the previous year. Emigration Clearances given to Saudi Arabia during the last three years and current year are as follows:

2014	2015	2016	(up to Dec. 28, 2017)
330002	308380	165355	78411

(d) The Government issues Emigration Clearance w.r.t. Emigration Check Required (ECR) category workers which are primarily in blue collar and semi-skilled jobs and their data is available under the e-Migrate system. Emigration Clearance figures, state-wise and year-wise, w.r.t. ECR category for Saudi Arabia for the last three years and current year is given in the Statement (*See below*). There is no requirement for skilled professionals and workers under Emigration Check Not Required (ECNR) category to seek Emigration Clearance.

Statement

Details of State-wise and Year-wise Emigration Clearance for Saudi Arabia for last three years and current year

State	2014	2015	2016	2017 (28 Dec. 17)
1	2	3	4	5
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	29	8	7	1
Andhra Pradesh	8690	8935	3571	1301

1	2	3	4	5
Arunachal Pradesh	48	4	0	0
Assam	2727	2936	2284	1232
Bihar	45930	43189	24005	14811
Chandigarh	421	104	38	13
Chhattisgarh	81	103	59	34
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	9	3	2	1
Daman and Diu	4	2	3	1
Delhi	1271	1192	862	414
Goa	264	195	101	62
Gujarat	1627	1382	710	421
Haryana	460	684	532	254
Himachal Pradesh	310	276	153	103
Jammu and Kashmir	3075	3283	3032	1069
Jharkhand	3978	3443	1703	911
Karnataka	6937	4702	1761	1060
Kerala	22982	12388	8561	4934
Lakshadweep	6	0	1	1
Madhya Pradesh	832	1094	587	332
Maharashtra	6269	5510	2739	1465
Manipur	5	16	10	10
Meghalaya	2	4	4	2
Mizoram	0	2	0	0
Nagaland	6	11	1	1
Odisha	2202	2280	1761	889
Puducherry	62	83	41	24
Punjab	4965	4242	3000	1577
Rajasthan	18791	16264	7455	5114
Sikkim	6	0	4	0
Tamil Nadu	19819	14443	5700	2992
Telangana	15041	10779	4933	1851

1	2	3	4	5
Tripura	295	1139	1341	335
Uttar Pradesh	131485	128925	59801	23216
Uttarakhand	2019	3081	1929	961
West Bengal	29354	37678	28664	13019
TOTAL	330002	308380	165355	78411

Impact of FTA signed by Maldives with China

1929. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maldives rushing to sign up a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China recently has taken India by surprise;

(b) whether the Indian commercial intelligence setup has been caught unawares with Maldives signing its first FTA with any country and China its second FTA with any country after Pakistan; and

(c) whether India has tried to fathom the motives behind Maldives convening its Parliament for an emergency sitting and passing the FTA resolution with only 30 out of 80 senators present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) and (b) According to available information, discussions on the Maldives-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was initiated in December 2014 following the visit of the President of China to Maldives. Formal negotiations on the FTA commenced in December 2015 and the text was reportedly finalized in September 2017 after five rounds of negotiations. The FTA was signed on 7 December 2017 in Beijing during the visit of the President of Maldives to China.

(c) India continues to monitor developments in Maldives, which has a bearing on bilateral relations.

Security partnership with USA, Japan and Australia

1930. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA has offered India credibility of security partnerships with Japan and Australia, that is, Quad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;