

Issue of passports under Tatkal Scheme

2760. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tatkal scheme for issuing of passport within a week has been working smoothly;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay of more than fortnight; as reported in the Statesman on the 24th October, 2000; and

(c) whether Government propose to privatise Tatkal scheme to ensure quick delivery during emergency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Tatkal scheme is applicable only in cases of genuine urgency where either police verification is not required or where a passport can be issued on post police verification basis along with the submission of a verification certificate by an officer of the rank of Deputy Secretary and above to Government of India. Passports are issued on payment of an additional fee of Rs. 1500/- for a passport to be issued within ten days of the receipt of application and Rs. 1000/- for a passport to be issued between 11 to 35 days of the receipt of application. Since details of any case have not been specified in this 'Statesman' report no comments can be given.

(c) No, Sir.

Proof documents for travelling in Nepal

2761. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had issued a notification making it mandatory for travellers who want to travel to Nepal to have a passport or a citizenship document as a proof with them;

(b) if so, the reasons for issuing such notification;

(c) whether it is applicable to Nepali citizens also; and

(d) if not, the reasons for such relaxation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

[14 December, 2000] RAJYA SABHA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India and Nepal have agreed to tighten the existing system whereby Indian and Nepalese nationals travelling by air between the two countries are required to present photo identification documents to establish their nationality. A pruned-down list of admissible travel documents was introduced with effect from October 1, 2000.

Indian citizens are required to be in possession of any one of the following documents while travelling by air between the two countries:

- *Valid national passport.
- * Photo identity card issued by the Government of India/any State Government or Union Territory Administration in India.
- * Identity card issued by the Election Commission of India.
- * Emergency Certificate issued by Embassy of India, Kathmandu to Indian nationals in case of emergent conditions.

Nepalese citizens are required to be in possession of any one of the following documents while travelling by air between the two countries:

- *Valid national passport.
- *Photo identity card issued by the Government of Nepal.
- *Emergency Certificate issued by the Royal Nepalese Embassy in New Delhi to the Nepalese nationals in case of emergent conditions.

Children up to the age of 10 years do not require the above-mentioned documents for travelling between India and Nepal, by air.

(d) Does not arise.

Indian delegation to muslim countries

2762. **SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:** Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would send Muslim MP's delegation to the important Muslim countries in order to show that our country is secular and also to get good image with Muslim countries to have business deals on petrol, gas and other commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and