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Title : Need to process applications for issuance of pass-port to Haj pilgrims in a stipulated time-frame.

SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN (VELLORE): As we know that since last couple of years, Haj Pilgrims require International Passport to get Haj Visa from the Saudi Embassy. Last year several measures were taken by the Ministry of External Affairs in order to issue the passports of the pilgrims within a particular time frame but still many were unable to get their passports in time and hence, were not able to submit the same to the Haj Committee of India, which in turn forwards them to the Saudi Embassy for visa processing. Due to huge numbers of applications and limited time-frame everything should be done within stipulated time.

One of the biggest challenge for any Haj Pilgrim is to get his or her International Passport before the last date of its submission to Haj Committee. We know very well that a large number of these applicants are not regular international travelers. They would probably never apply for a passport unless they decide to go for Haj and once performed this duty they may never find any use for passport unless they again decide to go for Haj, which will probably happen after a gap of several years if not decades.

It has come to our notice that the police clearance takes the most time in the process. I request the honorable Minister of Home Affairs as well as the Minister of External Affairs to please ensure and issue necessary instructions so that the applicants get their passports within the stipulated time frame.